

# Louisiana Believes

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Academic Content Standards Review Process  
2015-2016



# BESE Directives

In March, BESE called on the Department to present a plan to review Louisiana's English and math content standards. The plan continues the state's tradition of professional standards reviews, maintaining a Louisiana set of standards to continue on the path begun more than four years ago to raise student expectations and outcomes.

BESE required the Department commence the next scheduled review of state academic content standards in English language arts and mathematics, as required in Bulletin 741, §2301(C).

# Louisiana Standards

The Department proposes a standards review process led by professional Louisiana educators that results in the best Louisiana standards for students.

State law (R.S. 17:24.4) requires BESE to approve “*nationally recognized content standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to post-secondary education and the workplace.*”

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires that states set forth challenging expectations for what public school children are expected to know and be able to do, that they contain coherent and rigorous content, and that they encourage the teaching of advanced skills.

BESE, in consultation with Louisiana educators and content experts, may adopt whatever standards meet these legal requirements. This includes making any adjustments or addition to present standards, which were developed by Louisiana and other states through the Common Core State Standards initiative. There is nothing in law or within the Common Core State Standards license documents preventing Louisiana from making whatever revisions or updates it determines are necessary to prepare our students for success and to fulfill legal requirements.

# Standards Review

The following principles will guide this local review:

- 1. Consistency:** The standards review will be consistent with the legally required process and with past Louisiana standards reviews.
- 2. Focus on the standards:** The review process will focus on the substance of the actual standards themselves.
- 3. Improve what exists today rather than start from scratch:** The review process will improve current standards based on local, expert input and results, rather than requiring of teachers another five years of work to re-do classroom plans.
- 4. Public input:** The review process will include opportunities for the public to weigh in on every standard. In addition, all meetings will be open to the public.

# Standards Committees and Participation

## **Ongoing Standards Committee**

26 members

Guide process and updates

Make final recommendation to BESE

Standards  
Committee

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graph TD; SC[Standards Committee] --- K2[K-2 Content Subcommittee]; SC --- ELA[3-12 ELA Content Subcommittee]; SC --- Math[3-12 Math Content Subcommittee];
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## **2015-2016 Cycle Only**

26 members each

Review public comments & test results

Propose content recommendations

K-2 Content  
Subcommittee

3-12 ELA  
Content  
Subcommittee

3-12 Math  
Content  
Subcommittee

# Standards Committee

Louisiana academic content standards should be a living set of nationally comparable expectations that adapt to student need. A standing Standards Committee will oversee the 2015-2016 review and will meet on an annual or as needed basis in subsequent years.

Given the technical nature of the work required to review content standards, at least half of this committee must be current Louisiana, district and school-based educators. Many of these members will also sit on one of three content subcommittees.

# Standards Committee

Participant	Nominating Body	Qualifications (all must be Louisiana educators and experts)	Total
<b>Members of K-2 content subcommittee</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, K-2 district/school-based educator <input type="checkbox"/> At least one K, one grade 1, and one grade 2 representative	3
<b>Members of 3-12 ELA content subcommittee</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 3-12, ELA, district/school-based educator <input type="checkbox"/> At least one 3-5, one 6-8, one 9-12 representative	3
<b>Members of 3-12 math content subcommittee</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 3-12, district/school-based educator <input type="checkbox"/> At least one 3-5, one 6-8, one 9-12 representative <b>** At least 1 of the 9 members above is the special education expert</b>	3
<b>Teacher representatives</b>	LAE (1), AFT (1), A+PEL (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, school-based educator	3
<b>Math content experts From content subcommittees</b>	University Deans (1), LATM & LCSM (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current university faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Recognized as math content expert by peers	2
<b>ELA content experts From content subcommittees</b>	University Deans (1), LRA (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current university faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Recognized as ELA content expert by peers	2
<b>Early elementary expert From content subcommittees</b>	LAECA	<input type="checkbox"/> Current university faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Recognized as early learning content expert by peers	1
<b>Post-secondary education representative</b>	Board of Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual familiar with academic expectations for freshmen entering Louisiana public post-secondary colleges and universities</li> </ul>	1
<b>Parents</b>	Louisiana PTA (1), BAEO (1), Urban League (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent of a current Louisiana public school student <input type="checkbox"/> Represent different regions of Louisiana (NE, NW, SE, SW) <b>** At least 1 of the 3 parents has a student with special needs</b>	3
<b>Principal</b>	Louisiana Assn of Principals	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Louisiana principal	1
<b>Superintendent</b>	Superintendent's Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Louisiana Superintendent	1
<b>School board member</b>	Louisiana School Board Assn	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Louisiana school board member	1
<b>Charter school representative</b>	Charter School Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Louisiana charter school principal or CEO	1
<b>Business and industry</b>	LABI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Louisiana business and industry owner or association representative</li> </ul>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26</b>

# 2015-2016 Content Subcommittees

For the current review process (2015-2016), three content subcommittees will review each set of standards in depth.

- K-2 Content Subcommittee
- 3-12 ELA Content Subcommittee
- 3-12 Math Content Subcommittee

Each content subcommittee will propose a set of revised standards to the Standards Committee for consideration.

Seventy-five percent of each content subcommittee must be current, district and school-based educators.



# K-2 Content Subcommittee

Participant	Nominating Body	Qualifications	Total
<b>Kindergarten educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, K school-based educator	6
<b>First grade educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 1 <sup>st</sup> grade school-based educator	6
<b>Second grade educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade school-based educator	6
<b>District K-2 content experts</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current district, K-2 staff member <input type="checkbox"/> Previous K-2 educator	5
<b>Early elementary content expert</b>	University Deans, LAECA	<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty content expert <input type="checkbox"/> Previous educator in Louisiana <input type="checkbox"/> Recognized early elementary content expert by peers <input type="checkbox"/> At least one has a background in childhood psychology	2
<b>Elementary special education expert</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty content expert <input type="checkbox"/> Previous educator in Louisiana	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26</b>

# 3-12 ELA Content Subcommittee

Participant	Nominating Body	Qualifications	Total
<b>3-5 ELA educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 3-5, school-based educator	6
<b>6-8 ELA educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 6-8, school-based educator	6
<b>High school ELA educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, high school, school-based educator	6
<b>District ELA content experts</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current district, ELA staff member <input type="checkbox"/> Previous ELA educator	5
<b>ELA content expert</b>	University Deans, LRA	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous educator in Louisiana <input type="checkbox"/> Recognized ELA content expert by peers	2
<b>Special education expert</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty content expert <input type="checkbox"/> Previous educator in Louisiana	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26</b>

# 3-12 Math Content Subcommittee

Participant	Nominating Body	Qualifications	Total
<b>3-5 math educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 3-5, school-based educator	6
<b>6-8 math educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, 6-8, school-based educator	6
<b>High school math educators</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current, high school, school-based educator	6
<b>District math content experts</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Current district, math staff member <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Math educator	5
<b>Math content expert</b>	University Deans, LATM, LCSM	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous educator in Louisiana <input type="checkbox"/> Recognized math content expert by peers	2
<b>Special education expert</b>	School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty content expert <input type="checkbox"/> Previous educator in Louisiana	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26</b>

# Nomination Process

Step and Timeline	Details
<p><b>Step 1: Districts and Organizations Nominate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 21: Nomination forms released</li> <li>• May 8: Nominations due</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Each district nominates the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 school-based educators</li> <li>• 2 district content staff members</li> <li>• 1 special education expert (school or district based)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Each organization nominates 4 candidates per allotted position</b></li> <li>• <b>Nominees must meet the following criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Louisiana educator or expert</li> <li>• Can meet all time commitments (up to 10 in person days over 1.5 years and work time)</li> <li>• Recognized as a content and pedagogical expert</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 2: Committee Proposals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 25: Committee make up proposed to BESE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Representatives for each committee will be chosen to meet the following criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each grade level K-12 in math and ELA represented</li> <li>• Experts include early childhood, reading, mathematics, psychology, special education</li> <li>• Representatives are diverse in gender, ethnicity and regional representation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>A total of 96 committee members will be chosen</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 for each content subcommittee (78 total)</li> <li>• 14 of the 26 representatives on the Standards Committee serve on content subcommittees</li> <li>• The proposal to BESE will identify which content subcommittee members serve on both the Standards Committee and content subcommittees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 3: BESE Votes on Committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 17: BESE votes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BESE receives a committee proposal for consideration on June 17<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>All committee members confirmed and informed of their role by June 22<sup>nd</sup></b></li> </ul>

# Review Process - Phase 1

Step	Details	Date
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Standards post on the website for public comment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parents, committee members, and educators share their feedback on each individual standard, K-12, math and ELA</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), a non-biased third party, review public comments and share a report with the committees</li> </ul>	June-August 15, 2015
<b>Standards Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review public comments and student assessment results</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send process recommendations to each content subcommittee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Department staff capture comments and prepare materials</li> </ul>	October, 2015 - ½ day
<b>INITIAL REVIEW</b>		October, 2015 - ½ day joint meeting with content subcommittees
<b>Content Subcommittees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review public comments, student assessment results</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work in grade band groups to review standards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Department staff capture recommendations for the standards committee</li> </ul>	October, 2015 – ½ day joint meeting with Standards Committee
<b>REVIEW AND UPDATES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Each subcommittee votes on proposed updates, majority determines to move updates forward to Standards Committee</li> </ul>	January, 1-day  April, 1-day

# Review Process - Phase 2

Step	Details	Date
<b>Public Comment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Updated standards post for public comment <input type="checkbox"/> SREB, a non-biased third party, review public comments and share a report with the committees	June-August, 2016
<b>Standards Committee</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Review public comments, student assessment results, and proposed updates from content subcommittees <input type="checkbox"/> Check for alignment from K-2 to 3-12 subcommittees	September, 2016 ½ -day
<b>FINAL REVIEW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Full review of each individual standard and update <input type="checkbox"/> Direct subcommittees to review small revisions where required	
<b>Content Subcommittees</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Review recommendations based on Standards Committee requests <input type="checkbox"/> Update proposals	October, 2016 ½ -day  <i>As needed</i>
<b>Standards Committee</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> The Department prepares final updates based on recommendations from subcommittees <input type="checkbox"/> Standards committee reviews and votes on final recommended updates	November, 2016 ½ -day
<b>FINAL VOTE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Majority determines to recommend standards to BESE	
<b>BESE PROPOSAL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> BESE considers recommended updates to standards	December, 2016