

Board of Public Education Content Standards Revision Schedule, Process, Guidelines, and Considerations

The Board of Public Education is responsible for adopting standards of accreditation for Montana schools. See [§20-2-121](#) and [§20-7-101](#), Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and Art. X, sec. 9(3)(a) of the Montana Constitution. Among the accreditation standards are content standards. In 2005, the Board of Public Education initiated a schedule, process, and criteria for standards revision to assure Montana citizens that its public schools are providing all children of our great state with a well-rounded education founded on challenging academic expectations. Beginning in 2016, the Board of Public Education establishes a new revision schedule and updates the revision process and guidelines. The standards revision process fulfills the vital purpose of preparing all Montana students for college, careers, civic engagement, and lifelong learning.

Challenging academic content standards clearly and consistently identify what students should know and be able to do. The standards provide a foundation for local district trustees to align curriculum and instruction, plan for professional development, and identify instructional materials and resources. Parents, educators, and the greater Montana community will be involved in the revision process.

The Board of Public Education adopts a regular schedule for revision of standards in accordance with [Administrative Rules of Montana \(ARM\) 10.53.104](#), which states:

1. Montana's content standards shall be reviewed and revised on a recurring schedule.
2. A schedule for review of content standards shall be established as a collaborative process with the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education with input from representatives of accredited schools. The schedule shall ensure that each program area is reviewed and revised at regular intervals.
3. The standards review process shall use context information, guidelines, processes, and procedures identified by the Office of Public Instruction with input from representatives of accredited schools.

Accordingly, the Board of Public Education provides the following revision schedule:

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Cycle	Content Standards	Research/Review	Revision	Negotiated Rulemaking	Adoption	Begin Implementation
Cycle I September 2016-July 2019	Social Studies Career and Technical Education Digital Literacy/Computer Science	September 2016- April 2017	May-October 2017	November 2017-March 2018	September 2018	July 1, 2019
Cycle II January 2019- July 2021	Mathematics World Languages	January – April 2019	May – October 2019	November 2019 – March 2020	September 2020	July 1, 2021
Cycle III January 2021-July 2023	English Language Arts/Literacy and English Learners Health & Physical Education	January – April 2021	May – October 2021	November 2021 – March 2022	September 2022	July 1, 2023
Cycle IV January 2023- July 2025	Arts Science	January – April 2023	May – October 2023	November 2023 – March 2024	September 2024	July 1, 2025

This schedule may change based on resource availability or other factors.

In accordance with [§20-7-101](#), MCA, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will recommend proposed content standards to the Board of Public Education that are consistent with the process, guidelines, and considerations outlined in the following sections.

Process

The Board of Public Education sets forth the following process to guide content standards revision.

1. In cooperation with the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction will facilitate a period of research and review of existing content standards according to the schedule established in this document.

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2. With participation from content experts and representatives from accredited schools, the Office of Public Instruction will facilitate the creation of proposed revisions to the content standards.
3. The Office of Public Instruction will facilitate the establishment of negotiated rulemaking committees and the creation of economic impact statements required in [§20-7-101](#), MCA. At the conclusion of the negotiated rulemaking process, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will make a recommendation for adoption of proposed content standards to the Board of Public Education.
4. The Board of Public Education, with the assistance of the Office of Public Instruction, may initiate administrative rulemaking that includes:
 - a. Adopting a rulemaking timeline;
 - b. Publishing proposed revisions;
 - c. Publishing notices of a comment period and a public hearing;
 - d. Responding to public comment; and
 - e. Acting to adopt, adopt as revised, or not adopt proposed content standards.

Guidelines

The Board of Public Education sets forth the following guidelines for content standards revision:

1. Standards will define what all students should know and be able to do;
2. Standards will be challenging and rigorous;
3. Standards will be clear, understandable, and free of jargon;
4. Standards will be measurable;
5. Standards will address diversity, specifically fulfilling the commitment to implementing Indian Education for All;
6. Standards will be consistent with the grade level and grade band structures in ARM Chapter 53; and
7. Content standards will be consistent with the program delivery standards described in ARM Chapter 55.

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Considerations

With the purpose of engaging in a transparent and inclusive process, the Board of Public Education sets forth the following considerations for the Office of Public Instruction to incorporate when recommending standards revision:

- Consider comments and recommendations from the Montana public;
- Consider international, national, and other states' standards;
- Consider implications for program delivery standards (ARM Chapter 55) and licensure standards (ARM Chapter 57);
- Consider implications for local and state assessments;
- Consider entrance expectations for workplace and postsecondary education;
- Consider student achievement and other related data;
- Consider other evidence-based practices and research on standards and learning expectations from regional, national, and international professional education organizations;
- Consider comments from Montana's professional education associations;
- Consider comments from tribal and school district educators;
- Consider comments from Montana's institutions of higher education and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education; and
- Consider recommendations from the Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education and Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council.

Pursuant to Art. X., sec. 1(2) of the Montana Constitution and §20-1-501 and §20-9-309(2)(c), MCA, the implementation of these standards must incorporate the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians.