**Tennessee State Board of Education** **Agenda Item**
**January 31, 2014** **Final Reading Item: III. A.**

---

**TN Early Learning Developmental Standards (TN-ELDS Birth to Age Four)**

---

**The Background:**

The State Board of Education approved the new Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards (TN-ELDS) on first reading in October 2013. The board approved the original TN-ELDS standards in 2004 to ensure early childhood educators and families understood the continuum of developmental milestones from birth through age 5 based on the research about the processes, sequences and long term consequences of early learning and development. In 2012 the Board approved a revised edition of the TN-ELDS for four year olds in order to align this age group's standards with the recently adopted Common Core State Standards for Math and English language arts in kindergarten. The early childhood community (which includes representatives from child serving state agencies, community and family child care providers, Higher Education teacher prep professors, TN Association for the Education of Young Child, and Tennessee Early Intervention staff) recommended that the current birth to age four standards should also be revised and aligned to the revised four year old standards.

In March 2013, a committee of representatives from child serving state agencies, child care organizations and higher education began the review process of the current TN-ELDS and developed the document submitted for approval.

If the revised standards are approved, they will be used by all regulated and licensed child care agencies, early intervention programs, IDEA 619 special education programs, and other programs serving this age group to support planning appropriate learning activities to meet the developmental needs of the children they serve. Professional development opportunities will be designed and offered to early childhood education providers. The professional development will be provided by Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, Child Care Resources and Referral, TEIS state level and program level staff, higher education professors and others trained and approved to offer training. The revised standards will be integrated into college level early childhood courses as well.

The standards document attached here include minor formatting changes since the first reading.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of the standards on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.