

State Board of Education Science Education Review Plan

Current Tennessee Diploma Project (TDP) Science Standards were based on the *National Science Education Standards* (1996) and approved by the State Board in 2008 for implementation during school year 2009-2010. Although currently Tennessee has made slight gains in science scores on TCAP and EOC, the Fordham Foundation characterized the K-12 science framework as a document that was clearly written, but highly disordered, confusing, and missing critical content in every discipline (physical, life, earth). The Foundation assigned the TDP Standards an overall rating of D. Tennessee needs a more rigorous set of science standards that better enables graduates to understand science concepts and employ practices (critical thinking, problem-solving) deemed essential for college and career readiness.

Timeline of implementation considerations:

Science Textbook Adoption Timeline	
By November 14, 2014	Determine content standards (for implementation in 2016-2017) Publishers provided with science curriculum standards for alignment
Spring 2015	Publishers submit bids for program materials that are aligned with standards
Summer 2015	Teams of TN K-12 teachers review textbooks and program materials for alignment with state standards, make recommendations, notify commission of committee findings
Early Fall 2015	List of acceptable science textbooks submitted for approval to the State Board
Late Fall 2015 -Spring 2016	Districts review materials on approved adoption list
April, 2016	Districts notify DOE of science program materials they intend to adopt
Summer 2016	Districts purchase materials and implement with standards

It is the charge of the State Board of Education along with interested stakeholders to review and adopt content standards prior to a textbook review and adoption. The department proposes a committee be formed with all interested stakeholders in science education to review the current state of science education in Tennessee.

A Steering committee will be appointed by the **SBE** and staffed in part by:

- State Board member, chair
- Legislative members (House and Senate)
- SBE staff
- TDOE staff, one each from Content & Resources, CTE, and CORE
- District representative(s) from elementary, middle and high
- State level science organization representative(s)
- Stem Hub representative(s)
- Higher education representative(s)