

Tennessee Academic Standards for Fourth-Year Mathematics Courses

The Background:

T.C.A. §§ 49-1-311 through 314 lay out a process for transparent and comprehensive reviews of Tennessee Academic Standards in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies. These reviews occur at least every six years on a rotating basis and are further codified in State Board Standards Review Policy 3.209. In February 2021, the Tennessee Academic Standards for all required math courses were approved on final reading by the State Board. The review of the 4th year math course standards was delayed to ensure alignment with similar courses offered by Tennessee's higher education institutions. The State Board began a review cycle of the 4th year math courses in Fall 2021 in compliance with all steps in law and policy.

The Standards Recommendation Committee (SRC), appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, reviewed the revised standards and public feedback. The SRC used the feedback to guide their final recommendations. The SRC approved the new standards at their April 29, 2022 meeting. Standards are included for Statistics, Pre-calculus, Calculus, and Mathematical Reasoning for Decision Making.

Changes made include:

- Aligning the state statistics standards to the Statewide Dual Credit Course to ensure all students taking statistics have the opportunity to earn early post-secondary credit by taking the challenge exam.
- Bridge Math has been removed in favor of merging SAILS with the Statistics course which will allow Tennessee students to be better prepared for entry-level mathematics courses at high education institutions.
- The course formerly called Applied Mathematical Concepts was overhauled to expose students to concepts that will better prepare them to enter the workforce, the military, or pursue a technical degree after high school. That course is now known as Mathematical Reasoning for Decision Making.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.