
Tennessee Early Learning Development Standards (TN ELDS)

The Background:

The Tennessee Early Learning Development Standards were last revised in 2012. Since that time, the State Board of Education has adopted updated academic standards for K-12. In an effort to ensure alignment with the new academic standards, this item proposes updates to the TN ELDS.

The Department of Education's Office of Early Learning (OEL) worked to realign the current TN ELDS with the recently revised K-12 standards. Those revisions were posted on the OEL website with a form for stakeholders and the general public to provide feedback. The OEL also convened roundtable meetings across the three Grand Divisions where pre-K teachers, Head Start instructional staff, pre-K directors, principals, and representatives from higher education were invited to provide feedback on the standards.

Based on the suggested feedback, standards were split to make them more user-friendly, language and coding were updated, some standards were removed, and standards were realigned to ensure a smooth continuation to the kindergarten standards.

After the first reading of the standards, the OEL will host an additional roundtable meeting for final review and feedback.

If approved by the State Board, training on the updated ELDS will be available to districts in late spring or early summer of 2018, and the updated ELDS standards will be implemented in the 2018-19 school year.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.