



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 4, 2021**

**Office of the State Board of Education
Len B. Jordan Building
650 W State Street, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held via Zoom teleconference on Monday, January 4, 2021. Board President Critchfield presided and called the meeting to order at 3:00pm (MST). A roll call of members was taken.

Present

Debbie Critchfield, President
Andy Scoggin, Vice President
Kurt Liebich, Secretary
Dr. Linda Clark*

Emma Atchley
Shawn Keough
Dr. Dave Hill
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

*Except where noted

Monday, January 4, 2021, 3:00 p.m. (MST)

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Content Standards Rewriting Process and Review of Initial Draft – English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science
This item was provided in the agenda materials as an information item.

Superintendent Ybarra introduced the item and noted that the Board was presented with an update on the review and rewrite of the Idaho Content Standards for English language arts, math, and science during the October 2020 Board Meeting. She reminded the Board that the review is being completed by volunteers who have been working on the standards since last summer to incorporate input from parents, teachers, and stakeholders. Supt. Ybarra asked Todd Driver, Director of Content and Curriculum for the State Department of Education, to provide an overview of the initial draft of the rewrite of the standards.

Board Member Clark joined the meeting at 3:05pm (MST).

Mr. Driver provided a summary of the timeline and committee process for the review of the standards, noting that the work groups met during September, October, and November 2020 and that the draft of the revised standards will go out for public comment in January and February 2021. The 2021 Legislature will also receive an update during this timeframe before the work groups meet again in March, April, and May 2021 to create the second draft. Final recommendations are expected to be presented to the Board in October 2021.

Mr. Driver also discussed that the workgroups agreed upon goals for the review: a focus on high-quality standards, a focus on changes grounded in legislative requests, and a focus on ensuring that all consensus within the workgroups will be reached publicly. Workgroups reviewed current standards, compared Idaho's standards to that of other states, and utilized the letter from the legislature to guide revisions. The initial draft of the content standards, including proposed revisions, is included within the meeting agenda materials.

Board Member Atchley complemented the structure that has been established for the workgroups and the review process for the content standards. She also noted that Board Policy requires that the content standards be reviewed every six year, and asked if the expedited timeline for the current review will affect the ongoing review schedule. Supt. Ybarra discussed that the most recent review as well as the current review are a result of a legislative request, and shared that she is hopeful that the current review process will satisfy the legislature's requests on a long-term basis.

Board President Critchfield inquired about the upcoming presentation to the 2021 Legislature to update them on the standards. Supt. Ybarra asked Karlynn Laraway, Communications Director for the State Department of Education, to discuss the presentation. Ms. Laraway discussed that the presentation to the legislature will be similar to the presentation to the Board and noted that many of the legislators serving on the House and Senate Education Committees are also serving on the standards review workgroups. Ms. Laraway shared that the goal for the presentation to the legislature is to gain feedback regarding next steps in the review process and identify areas of the review that may be lacking.

Board Secretary Liebich echoed Board Member Atchley's comments and added that communication of the revisions will be crucial moving forward, citing the criticism received during the 2020 Legislative Session that was focused on instruction and testing methods rather than the standards for themselves. Board Member Liebich also noted that the review workgroups have compared Idaho's standards to that of other states, specifically Massachusetts, Texas, Nebraska, and Florida, and inquired about the reasoning for selecting these states as a comparison. Mr. Driver stated that these four states were specifically listed in the letter from the legislature in 2020, and the review workgroups opted to focus on these states as benchmarks while still considering data and best practices from other states.

Board Secretary Liebich inquired if the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessment could be tailored to assess the revised standards in the future, or if Idaho would need to adopt an entirely new assessment. Supt. Ybarra explained that it is too early in the review process to know if the SBAC could be revised to assess the new standards. She noted that adopting a new assessment would involve a great deal of effort and expense, and emphasized the importance of including this issue in conversations with the legislature moving forward. Board Member Clark inquired if there is an assessment that would adequately test the revised standards or if a new assessment would need to be developed. Kevin Whitman, Director of Assessment and Accountability for the State Department of Education, discussed that changes to the SBAC or the adoption of a new assessment will depend on the extent of the revisions made to the content standards.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

2. Every Student Succeeds Act – State Accountability Plan Addendum

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Ybarra/Atchley): I move to approve the Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency as submitted in Attachment 1. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 8-0.

The US Department of Education created an “Addendum to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency” that provides guidance for states to propose revisions to their plan based on the ongoing effects of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Ybarra introduced the item and asked Kevin Whitman, Director of Assessment and Accountability for the State Department of Education, to provide an overview of the addendum.

The deadline to submit the addendum is February 1, 2021 in order for the US Department of Education to approve the proposal in time for Idaho to incorporate revisions to the accountability calculations based on data from the 2020-2021 academic year. The addendum will go out for public comment following Board approval, and Supt. Ybarra noted that the addendum was thoroughly reviewed in December 2020 by the Accountability Oversight Committee. Mr. Whitman stated that the addendum in its entirety and his presentation slide deck are included within the meeting agenda materials.

The addendum allows states to shift the timeline forward by one year, and Mr. Whitman discussed that Idaho’s addendum will move long-toward goals out one year to allow for an extended timeframe for the goals outlined in the state plan to be met. Mr. Whitman also discussed revisions to proficiency indicators as part of the addendum, detailing that if the state is unable to calculate an indicator they are able to utilize a modified methodology for calculating the indicator, such as substituting data from a different year.

Mr. Whitman shared that Idaho's addendum will utilize growth over two years, rather than growth year-over-year, for its growth calculation, and all other metrics will remain the same.

Mr. Whitman then discussed Annual Meaningful Differentiation, noting that a non-summative report of multiple indicators is available on IdahoSchools.org. The addendum allows states to modify overall systems or change weighting, and Mr. Whitman stated that Idaho will continue to report normal metrics on its Report Card with an annotation drawing attention to the disruptions in instruction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Whitman also discussed recommendations for identifications and exits, noting that the timeline for this metric will be moved out one year, and for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), stating that Idaho will calculate required TSI identification utilizing achievement gaps for 2018, 2019, and 2021. Mr. Whitman outlined that, overall, the addendum maintains consistency with Idaho's original ESEA plan, minimized impact of the disruptions that occurred in 2020, and allows for future modifications to be based on a more structured process.

Board President Critchfield echoed Mr. Whitman's comments regarding the implementation of a more structured process for future modifications to Idaho's ESEA plan. Supt. Ybarra discussed that the addendum is timely and that future modifications will likely be an ongoing process to incorporate recommendations that have stemmed from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the incoming Biden-Harris administration. Board Member Clark added that the Accountability Oversight Committee and the Planning, Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee have had extensive conversations pertaining to standardized testing and shared that she feels optimistic about the addendum.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was entertained.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Keough/Ybarra): I move to adjourn the meeting at 3:58pm (MST). The motion carried 8-0.