TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Standards Review and Validation Process

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the process used by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to review and validate the content standards across subject areas. This ensures that the standards are rigorous, measurable, and aligned with state priorities, including Maryland College and Career Ready (MCCR) expectations, legislation, and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Background

In January 2024, MSDE initiated a comprehensive review of content standards in Literacy/ELA, Mathematics, and Social Studies. The process responds to outdated revisions, evolving research, and legislative mandates such as the Ready to Read Act and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

A statewide Standards Review and Validation Committee (SRVC), composed of educators, families, and stakeholders, led the work. The committee focused on aligning standards with Maryland's College and Career Readiness expectations, ensuring clarity, accessibility, and consistency across grade levels.

Executive Summary

The standards review followed a structured, collaborative process that included gap analysis, iterative drafting, public comment, and finalization. Revisions are designed to streamline content, clarify learning expectations, and reinforce alignment across assessment, instruction, intervention, and accountability systems.

This work is deeply connected to MSDE's broader initiatives, including professional learning, high-quality instructional materials, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Final standards are being prepared for submission to the State Board.

Action

Information Only

Attachments

6.24.25 BOE SRVC Process Overview Presentation.pdf

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Presentation Outline

1. Standards Review Process

2. Objectives of the Change Process

3. Connections Across Workstreams

4. Questions & Answers

The Maryland State Standards Review Process

In January of **2024**, the Division of Instructional Programs did a comprehensive review of the content standards.

Social Studies	Literacy/ELA	Mathematics
Last revisions ranged from **2018** through 2024	Last revisions approved in **2012**	Last revisions approved in **2010**

Anticipated Timeline

The review of standards led to the development of the following timeline.
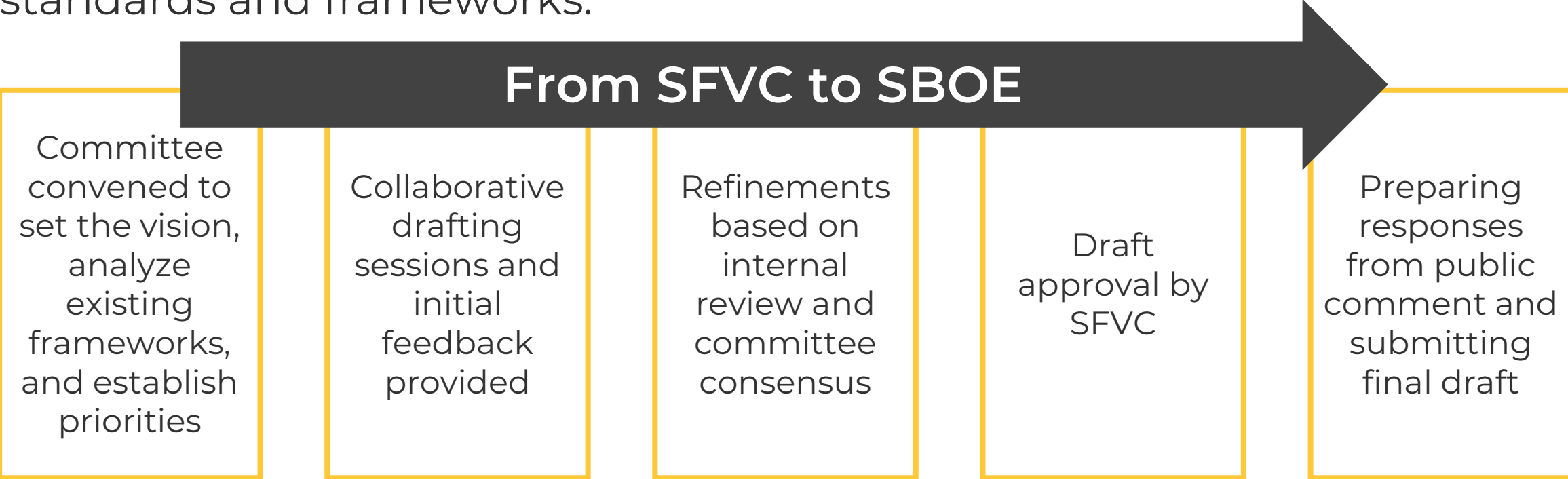
2025-2026

- Social Studies: June 2025

- Literacy/ELA: July 2025

- Mathematics: July 2025

- Comprehensive Health: TBD

- PE: TBD

2026-2027

- Comprehensive Arts: TBD

- World Languages: TBD

- Science: TBD

Summary of the Process Utilized for Validation and Review

The SFVC, comprised of educators, subject matter experts, and parents convened multiple times a year to propose revisions to the standards and frameworks.

From SFVC to SBOE

| Committee convened to set the vision, analyze existing frameworks, and establish priorities | Collaborative drafting sessions and initial feedback provided | Refinements based on internal review and committee consensus | Draft approval by SFVC | Preparing responses from public comment and submitting final draft |

Objectives of the Change Process

Ease of Use

Streamline Maryland's content standards to ensure they are easily accessible, navigable, and usable by students, educators, families, and administrators.

Clarity

Ensure that learning outcomes are clear, measurable, and rigorous, with logically sequenced expectations across grade levels and consistently high standards for all students.

Validity

Ensure Maryland's Standards are fully aligned with the state's CCR expectations, legislative requirements, and SBOE recommendations across curriculum, assessment, instruction, and intervention.

Connections Across Workstreams

The standards and frameworks developed are the connective tissue for many of MSDE's initiatives.

Assessments and Item Development

Accountability Model

High-Quality Instructional Materials

Professional Learning and Coaching

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Questions & Answers