

# Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work

## Title 6 Education

### Subtitle 2. Elementary And Secondary Education Generally

#### Chapter 15 Educational Standards and Quality Generally

#### Subchapter 15 -- Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work

#### **6-15-1501. [Repealed.]**

#### **6-15-1502. Revisions, compliance, and implementation.**

**(a)** The State Board of Education shall develop a comprehensive plan to review and revise the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks process.

**(b)** The plan shall be a comprehensive plan to provide an external review of content standards and curriculum frameworks adopted by the state in core academic areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, geography, civics, and other courses identified by the State Board of Education as state-mandated graduation requirements.

**(c)** In developing the plan, the State Board of Education shall conduct a full review of available and relevant academic content standards and curriculum frameworks that are rigorous, specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable, whenever possible.

**(d) (1)** The review shall be to determine whether the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks are designed to:

**(A)** Reflect high expectations for students and an in-depth mastery of the content;

**(B)** Be clearly grounded in the content of each academic area;

**(C)** Be defined grade-by-grade and in each content area;

**(D)** Be understandable to parents and teachers;

**(E)** Be developed in full recognition of the time available to teach the core academic areas at each grade level; and

**(F)** Be measurable whenever possible in a reliable, valid, and efficient manner for accountability purposes.

**(2)** The plan shall include a process for the review of curriculum offerings to ensure that low-level general education tracts offered by school districts are eliminated before the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year.

**(3)** High school course content standards and curriculum frameworks set forth in the plan shall include the knowledge and skills necessary to enter the work force and also shall be aligned with the coursework required for admission to the state's institutions of post-secondary education.

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\*\*\* received from the Arkansas Code Revision Commission through \*\*\*

\*\*\* November15, 2013. \*\*\*

**(e)** Upon completion of the review, the State Board of Education shall revise all curriculum frameworks and supplemental materials that are recommended as a result of the review.

**(f)** As part of the revision process, the State Board of Education shall revise and make available to teachers and parents support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for academic content standards and curriculum frameworks that are specifically recommended for revision as a result of the review.

**(g)** The State Board of Education shall work in collaboration with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Executive Council to ensure that teacher and school administrator degree programs, ongoing professional development, and other university activity in the state's public schools align with the revised Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework process and other educational priorities of the state.

### **6-15-1503. State-mandated exams.**

**(a) (1)** The State Board of Education shall ensure that any revisions made to the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework process is to be aligned to the state assessment system for core academic areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies as funding permits.

**(2)** All end-of-course tests shall be aligned with the content standards and curriculum frameworks.

**(b)** All other components of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program should be aligned with the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework process.

### **6-15-1504. Review.**

**(a)** The Department of Education shall review the Arkansas Academic Content Standards and Curriculum Framework process plan on its State Board of Education-approved revision cycle and report to the State Board of Education annually.

**(b) (1)** The State Board of Education shall align state programs and support materials with the revised academic content standards and curriculum frameworks for each core academic area.

**(2)** Alignment shall include revision of textbook criteria, support materials, state tests, teacher and school administrator preparation, and ongoing professional development programs to be compatible with content standards and curriculum frameworks.

**(c)** The State Board of Education shall revise and make available to teachers and parents support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for academic content standards and curriculum frameworks as set forth in the plan each time the plan is revised under subsection (a) of this section.

**(d)** The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to ensure regular collaboration with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Executive Council to encourage teacher and school

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administrator degree programs and ongoing professional development and to ensure that other university activity in the state's public schools aligns with the State Board of Education's priorities.

**6-15-1505. School district implementation.**

**(a)** Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, each local school district shall establish procedures and monitoring processes to ensure that the content of each course offered by the school district is consistent with content standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the State Board of Education.

**(b)** The superintendent of each school district shall provide to the Department of Education, by October 1 of each year following the adoption of the plan under subsection (a) of this section, a written statement of assurance that the content of each class and subject area, as required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts regardless of levels, is aligned to content standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the state board in the plan.

**(c)** The department shall monitor, during the standards review visit, documentation related to the plan.

**(d)** If the department determines that a school district has failed to align the content of each class and subject area as required by the state board to content standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the state board, the department shall:

**(1)** Note the failure to comply in the annual school performance report under § 6-15-1402; and

**(2)** Cite the failure to comply of each school on the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts Annual Report.

**6-15-1506. Rules and regulations.**

Before December 31, 2003, the State Board of Education shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations necessary to carry out this subchapter.