

State Board of Education Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

DATE: November 14, 2024

TO: Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education,
Pennsylvania Department of Education

FROM: Karen Molchanow, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Review of the Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities and for
Health, Safety and Physical Education

Academic standards promulgated by the State Board of Education (Board) in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessments) are to be reviewed periodically to determine if they are appropriate, clear, specific, and challenging.

The Board's Committee on Academic Standards/Chapter 4 (Committee) is delegated responsibility for reviewing regulations that govern academic standards and for drafting revised regulations for recommendation to the Board. The Committee may work with representatives of the Department of Education (Department) and/or external advisors in its deliberations.

By way of this memo, I am notifying you of the Committee's intention to continue its work to review the academic standards in Chapter 4 and request that the Department serve as a partner in this effort.

At its public meeting on November 13, 2024, the Committee determined that it will open the academic standards for Arts and Humanities and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education as the next sets of standards to be reviewed. An opportunity for all members of the Board to provide input on the Committee's intended plans was extended at the Board's public meeting on November 14, 2024.

The Committee requests that the Department support this effort by engaging review teams comprised of educators and other content experts to conduct an initial review of these standards. Through that consultation with external stakeholders, the Committee requests that the Department develop recommendations on whether the standards should be revised and, if so, formulate draft amendments to the standards for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee further requests that the names of individuals nominated to serve on these standards review teams be presented to the Committee for approval before the review teams are convened. Lists of nominees should be submitted in advance of the Board meeting scheduled for March 12-13, 2025.

Following presentation of the Department's recommendations on the academic standards for Arts and Humanities and on the standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education, the Committee will undertake a process to collect additional stakeholder feedback before developing its own recommendations to present to the Board.

On behalf of the Committee and the Board, we look forward to working collaboratively with the Department to review the academic standards for Arts and Humanities and for Health, Safety and Physical Education.

cc: Brian Campbell
Brian Gasper
Sam Snyder, Esq.
Thomas Howell, Esq.