

Policy SCOS-012: Process for the Review, Revision, and Implementation of the NC Standard Course of Study

Status: ADOPTED

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Item	Description
Policy Title	Process for the Review, Revision, and Implementation of the NC Standard Course of Study
Policy Category	Standard Course of Study (SCOS)
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Statutory Reference	GS 115C-12(9a), GS 115C-81

I. North Carolina Standard Course of Study

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS)* shall include the content areas of:

- Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts),
- Career Technical Education** (Agricultural Education; Business, Finance and Information Technology; Career Development Education; Family and Consumer Sciences Education; Health Sciences Education; Marketing and Entrepreneurship Education; Technology Engineering and Design Education; and Trade & Industrial Education),
- Computer Science
- Digital Learning
- English Language Arts,
- English Language Development,
- Healthful Living (Health and Physical Education),
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social Studies,
- Student Success, and,
- World Language

**Extended content standards follow the same revision and implementation process.*

***Career and Technical Education (CTE) follows the North Carolina CTE Essential Standards Guide, located in SBE Policy SCOS-005.*

II. North Carolina Standard Course of Study Review, Revision, and Implementation Process

The NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) will review the standards for each content area every five-to-seven years to ensure the NCSCOS consists of clear, relevant standards and objectives. The standards review, revision, and implementation process provides a comprehensive study of each content area organized by grade level, proficiency level, and/or course. The five-to-seven-year cycle allows time for review, revision, and consistent implementation of the standards. Alignment with the statewide assessment program, extended content standards, and materials adoption will be addressed throughout the process, as appropriate.

To promote transparency and stakeholder engagement in every standards review, revision, and implementation, NCDPI will use a uniform and formalized system built on four guiding principles:

- A. **Feedback-Based:** NCDPI will formally collect feedback on the current standards from educators, administrators, parents, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry representatives, national organizations, and other education agencies.
- B. **Research-Informed:** NCDPI will review contemporary and current research on standards and learning in the content area under review. Benchmarking with other states, third-party reviews, and comparability of national and international standards and trends will inform the process.
- C. **Improvement-Oriented:** NCDPI will provide the State Superintendent and State Board of Education an annual report summarizing feedback received from stakeholders concerning standards and implementation.
- D. **Process-Driven:** The system process includes three phases: review, revision, and implementation. The steps included in each phase are outlined below.

The review, revision, and implementation phases outlined in this policy represent standard processes for updating standards. However, this policy does not prevent the State Superintendent from recommending or the State Board of Education from taking prompt action regarding standards revisions in response to legislation or for other reasons deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board.

1. NC Standard Course of Study Review Phase

All standards are reviewed on a perpetual cycle of five-to-seven years. The review process is designed to ensure clear, rigorous, and measurable standards that are easily understood by teachers, parents, and students, and are articulated K-12 by grade, proficiency level, and/or course. NCDPI will facilitate the standards review phase using the following steps, as appropriate:

- a. Collect and review feedback through various methods from stakeholders, including but not limited to educators, administrators, parents, community members, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry, education agencies in other states and/or national organizations for the specific content area.
- b. Analyze contemporary and current research on standards in the content area being reviewed.
- c. Establish and convene a data review committee.
- d. Facilitate the committee's review of data and research, State or federal legislative requirements, surveys and other stakeholder feedback.
- e. Evaluate the data review committee's findings and share recommendations for standards revision with the State Board of Education.

2. NC Standard Course of Study Revision Phase

If the data review committee recommends changes to the existing content standards, NCDPI will use the subsequent steps iteratively as appropriate:

- a. Establish and convene a standards writing team.
- b. Share the draft standards with local districts, charter schools, and other stakeholders for at least 30 days of review and input.
- c. Engage the data review committee to compile feedback and share with the writing team.
- d. Reconvene the writing team to review the feedback and incorporate changes as necessary.
- e. Share additional drafts for stakeholder review and input as appropriate.
- f. Submit the revised standards to the State Board of Education.

3. NC Standard Course of Study Implementation Phase

Following State Board of Education approval, NCDPI will support standards implementation through the following actions:

- a. Launch and disseminate a state-level standards implementation plan to local districts and charter schools.
- b. Modify the annual statewide assessment program as necessary in accordance with the revised standards.
- c. Facilitate statewide training and support for educators on the revised standards.
- d. Collect data and evaluate the implementation of the revised standards.

An internal procedures manual was created for the purpose of providing a definitive explanation of the process to be followed when developing or revising a section of the NC Standard Course of Study. This manual is designed solely to assist with the task of developing/revising a content area of the NC Standard Course of Study. It is not intended to guide the development/revision of local curriculum guides or other curriculum support documents.

The 10-year review and revision standards timeline is as follows:

2024-2025

Review Phase

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Revision Phase:

- English Language Arts

Installation Phase:

- Healthful Living (Health, Physical Education)
- Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)
- World Language

Initial Implementation Phase:

- Science

2025-2026

Review Phase:

- Social Studies

Revision Phase:

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Installation Phase:

- English Language Arts

Initial Implementation Phase:

- Healthful Living (Health, Physical Education)
- Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)
- World Language

2026-2027

Review:

- Science

Revision:

- Social Studies

Installation:

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Initial Implementation:

- English Language Arts

2027-2028

Review:

- World Language

Revision:

- Science

Installation:

- Social Studies

Initial Implementation:

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

2028-2029

Review:

- Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)

Revision:

- World Language

Installation:

- Science

Initial Implementation:

- Social Studies

2029-2030

Review:

- Healthful Living (Health, Physical Education)

Revision:

- Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)

Installation:

- World Language

Initial Implementation:

- Science

2030-2031

Review:

- English Language Arts

Revision:

- Healthful Living (Health, Physical Education)

Installation:

- Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)

Initial Implementation:

- World Language

2031-2032

Review:

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Revision:

- English Language Arts

Installation:

- Healthful Living (Health, Physical Education)

Initial Implementation:

- Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)

2032-2033**Review:**

- Social Studies

Revision:

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Installation:

- English Language Arts

Initial Implementation:

- Healthful Living (Health, Physical Education)

2033-2034**Review:**

- Science

Revision:

- Social Studies

Installation:

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Initial Implementation:

- English Language Arts

- In March 2021, the SBE approved the WIDA standards as the NC Standard Course of Study for English Language Development. These standards will be updated in alignment with WIDA updates. They will then follow the NC sequence for installation and implementation.
- In December 2023, the SBE approved the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) Mindsets and Behaviors as the NC Student Success Standards (formerly known as the Guidance standards). These standards will be updated in alignment with ASCA updates. They will then follow the NC sequence for installation and implementation.
- In 2019, the SBE approved the implementation of the North Carolina Digital Learning Standards for Students. These standards will be updated in alignment with ISTE Student Standards updates.
- Extended content standards revision and implementation will follow the same timeline as above for the appropriate content areas.

Supporting Documents

NCSCOS Internal Procedures Manual - April 2023

Supporting Links

Division of Academic Standards - <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards>

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
GS 115C-81.5	Standard Course of Study



Office of Academic Standards

North Carolina Standard Course of Study

Internal Procedures Manual

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Introduction

**Please note that this manual and all linked templates are set to view only. A force copy can be found in Appendix A. All additions, deletions, or changes to any template must be approved by Office leadership.*

Legislative Policy SCOS-012 Process for the Review, Revision, and Implementation of the NC Standard Course of Study

I. North Carolina Standard Course of Study

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- Computer Science,
- English Language Arts,
- English Language Development,
- Guidance,
- Healthful Living (Health Education, Physical Education),
- Information and Technology,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social Studies,
- World Languages.

II. North Carolina Standard Course of Study Review, Revision, and Implementation Process

The NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) will review the standards for each content area every five-to-seven years to ensure the NCSCOS consists of clear, relevant standards and objectives. The standards review, revision, and implementation process provides a comprehensive study of each content area organized by grade level, proficiency level, and/or course. The five-to-seven-year cycle allows time for review, revision, and consistent implementation of the standards. Alignment with the statewide assessment program, extended content standards, and materials adoption will be

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- B. Research-Informed: NCDPI will review contemporary and current research on standards and learning in the content area under review. Benchmarking with other states, third-party reviews, and comparability of national and international standards and trends will inform the process. Board Policy Manual NC State Board of Education Policy Reference Disclaimer.
- C. Improvement-Oriented: NCDPI will provide the State Superintendent and State Board of Education an annual report summarizing feedback received from stakeholders concerning standards and implementation.
- D. Process-Driven: The system process includes three phases: review, revision, and implementation. The steps included in each phase are outlined below.

The review, revision, and implementation phases outlined in this policy represent standard processes for updating standards. However, this policy does not prevent the State Superintendent from recommending or the State Board of Education from taking prompt action regarding standards revisions in response to legislation or for other reasons deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board.

1. NC Standard Course of Study **Review** Phase

All standards are reviewed on a perpetual cycle of five-to-seven years. The review process is designed to ensure clear, rigorous, and measurable standards that are easily understood by teachers, parents, and students, and are articulated K-12 by grade, proficiency level, and/or course. NCDPI will facilitate the standards review phase using the following steps, as appropriate:

- A. Collect and review feedback through various methods from stakeholders, including but not limited to educators, administrators, parents, community members, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry, education agencies in other states and/or national organizations for the specific content area.

- B. Analyze contemporary and current research on standards in the content area being reviewed.
- C. Establish and convene a data review committee.
- D. Facilitate the committee's review of data and research, State or federal legislative requirements, surveys and other stakeholder feedback.
- E. Evaluate the data review committee's findings and share recommendations for standards revision with the State Board of Education.

2. NC Standard Course of Study **Revision** Phase

If the data review committee recommends changes to the existing content standards, NCDPI will use the subsequent steps iteratively as appropriate:

- A. Establish and convene a standards writing team.
- B. Share the draft standards with local districts, charter schools, and other stakeholders for at least 30 days of review and input.
- C. Engage the data review committee to compile feedback and share with the writing team.
- D. Reconvene the writing team to review the feedback and incorporate changes as necessary.
- E. Share additional drafts for stakeholder review and input as appropriate.
- F. Submit the revised standards to the State Board of Education.

3. NC Standard Course of Study **Implementation** Phase

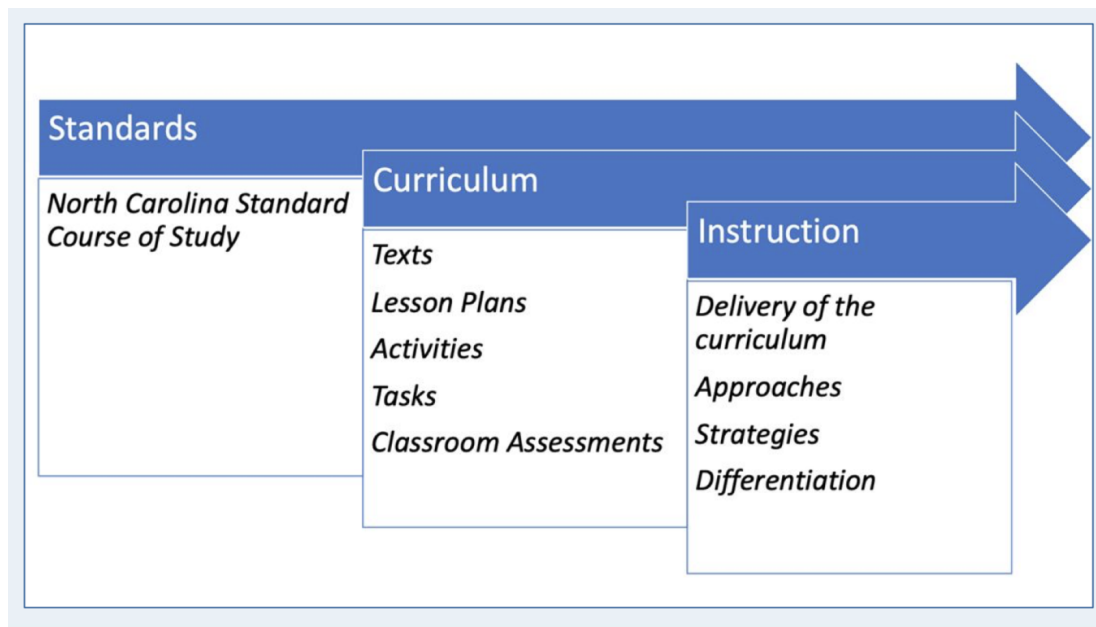
Following State Board of Education approval, NCDPI will support standards implementation through the following actions:

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- B. Modify the annual statewide assessment program as necessary in accordance with the revised standards.
- C. Facilitate statewide training and support for educators on the revised standards.
- D. Collect data and evaluate the implementation of the revised standards.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) follows the North Carolina CTE Essential Standards Guide, located in SBE Policy SCOS-005.*

Extended Content Standards: The staff within the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) facilitate and conduct the steps outlined in this manual for the extended content standards, unless otherwise noted. The content area team and OEC communicate throughout all steps.

The Difference Between Standards, Curriculum, and Instruction



Content Areas

- Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts),
- Career Technical Education* (Agricultural Education; Business, Finance and Information Technology; Career Development Education; Family and Consumer Sciences Education; Health Sciences Education; Marketing and Entrepreneurship Education; Technology Engineering and Design Education; and Trade & Industrial Education),
- Computer Science,
- English Language Arts,
- English Language Development,
- Guidance,
- Healthful Living (Health Education, Physical Education),
- Information and Technology,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social Studies, and
- World Languages.

**Development of Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards follows the North Carolina CTE Essential Standards Guide, located in SBE Policy SCOS-005.*

Purpose of the Internal Procedures Manual

The purpose of the Internal Procedures Manual is to provide a definitive explanation of the process to be followed when developing or revising a section of the NCSCOS.

This manual is designed solely to assist with the task of developing/revising a content area of the NCSCOS. It is not intended to guide the development/revision of local curriculum guides or other curriculum support documents.

Guiding Principles

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study is a legal document and, as such, each individual standard course of study should be as simple as possible so it can communicate to a wide audience of teachers, administrators, central office staff, parents, community, legislators, and others.

Each individual content area in the NCSCOS should communicate what students should know and be able to do as a result of instruction at each grade level or from a course. Content and skills that are not limited to particular material or methodology but can be delivered through multiple approaches and materials should be described. Specific teaching strategies, materials, or other information should be explored in optional curriculum support documents rather than in the NCSCOS.

Taxonomy/Framework

A group of cognitive psychologists, curriculum theorists and instructional researchers, and testing and assessment specialists published in 2001 a revision of Bloom's Taxonomy with the title *A Taxonomy for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*. This title draws attention away from the somewhat static notion of "educational objectives" (in Bloom's original title) and points to a more dynamic conception of classification.

The authors of the revised taxonomy underscore this dynamism, using verbs and gerunds to label their categories and subcategories (rather than the nouns of the original taxonomy). These "action words" describe the cognitive processes by which thinkers encounter and work with knowledge:

Remember

- Recognizing
- Recalling

Understand

- Interpreting
- Exemplifying

- Classifying
- Summarizing
- Inferring
- Comparing
- Explaining
- Apply
 - Executing
 - Implementing
- Analyze
 - Differentiating
 - Organizing
 - Attributing
- Evaluate
 - Checking
 - Critiquing
- Create
 - Generating
 - Planning
 - Producing

In the revised taxonomy, knowledge is at the basis of these six cognitive processes, but its authors created a separate taxonomy of the types of knowledge used in cognition:

- Factual Knowledge
 - Knowledge of terminology
 - Knowledge of specific details and elements
- Conceptual Knowledge
 - Knowledge of classifications and categories
 - Knowledge of principles and generalizations
 - Knowledge of theories, models, and structures
- Procedural Knowledge
 - Knowledge of subject-specific skills and algorithms
 - Knowledge of subject-specific techniques and methods
 - Knowledge of criteria for determining when to use appropriate procedures
- Metacognitive Knowledge
 - Strategic Knowledge
 - Knowledge about cognitive tasks, including appropriate contextual and conditional knowledge
 - Self-knowledge

All of the text in the section above was taken from Armstrong, P. (2010). Bloom's Taxonomy. Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching. Retrieved [November 2021] from <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/blooms-taxonomy/>.

Alignment of Standards

Textbook Adoption Process

The statewide textbook evaluation and adoption process offers one way for schools to have access to quality instructional materials aligned with state standards. Evaluative criteria are carefully established and materials are conscientiously examined so that the best materials are made available to serve as tools to support the goals and objectives of the NCSCOS.

Assessments

The North Carolina End-of-Grade and End-of-Course tests are developed using the expertise of North Carolina educators. The test development process is a complex process that involves multiple checks and balances guided by testing experts and professionals. This process begins after new content standards are adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education and includes multiple stakeholders who serve in advisory roles to the test development process.

Prior to the test development process, the standards to be measured are defined during test specification meetings. A panel of North Carolina educators collaborate and develop recommendations for a prioritization of standards indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for test design for each content area. Subsequently, test development staff from the NCDPI meet with various advisors to review the recommendations from the educator panels and adopt final weight distributions across the domains for each grade level.

Once test specifications are adopted, item writers and reviewers complete training on the new subject-specific content standards. The training also includes an overview of item writing, sensitivity, and bias guidelines. North Carolina educators start the item development process by creating new items then various advisors provide feedback on item quality throughout the 18-step test development process. The development process concludes with the NCDPI Test Measurement Specialist evaluating the recommendations from all advisors then finalizing and approving the item, reading selection, or test form.

Course Codes

NCDPI maintains a system for course codes to facilitate standardized longitudinal data collection, effective scheduling management, student records exchange, and ultimately inform and improve education policy and student outcomes.

To this end, it is critically important that schools and districts consistently and accurately schedule courses according to the coding scheme set by the NCDPI.

Student scheduling with proper course codes ensures clean data pulls for state and federal reporting, appropriate assignment of testing for Accountability purposes, the fulfillment of graduation requirements, an accurate transcript, and proper functioning of other vital systems used for effective and efficient school system management.

Honors/Advanced Learning and Gifted Education

NC AIG Program Standards (SBE-ACIG-000) provide the guidelines for Local AIG Plans and provide a statewide framework for quality programming, while still honoring local flexibility. In an effort to strengthen gifted education in North Carolina, the NC AIG Program Standards represent the SBE's and NCDPI's commitment to ensure that the academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs are met in NC's public schools. The NC AIG Program Standards directly addresses the SCOS in Standard 3a. A Local Education Agency...“Adapts the NC Standard Course of Study (SCOS) K-12 to address a range of advanced ability levels in language arts, mathematics, and other content areas as appropriate through the use of differentiation strategies, including enrichment, extension, and acceleration.”

The Dual Credit Allowances Chart addresses the NC Community College courses that satisfy the High School Graduation Requirements (SBE GRAD-004). These courses are reviewed by the Academic Standards team to ensure that there is basic alignment with the NCSCOS.

Advanced Courses that Satisfy Graduation Requirements (SBE GRAD-008) policy outlines Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Cambridge courses that satisfy High School Graduation Requirements because they are in basic alignment with the NCSCOS.

All of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education's instructional resources are aligned to the NCSCOS, like the Advanced Learning Labs.

Honors courses are also developed locally based on the Honors Courses guidance to add further depth and complexity to the NCSCOS and meet the needs of advanced learners.

Process for the Review, Revision, and Implementation of Standards



Roles and Responsibilities

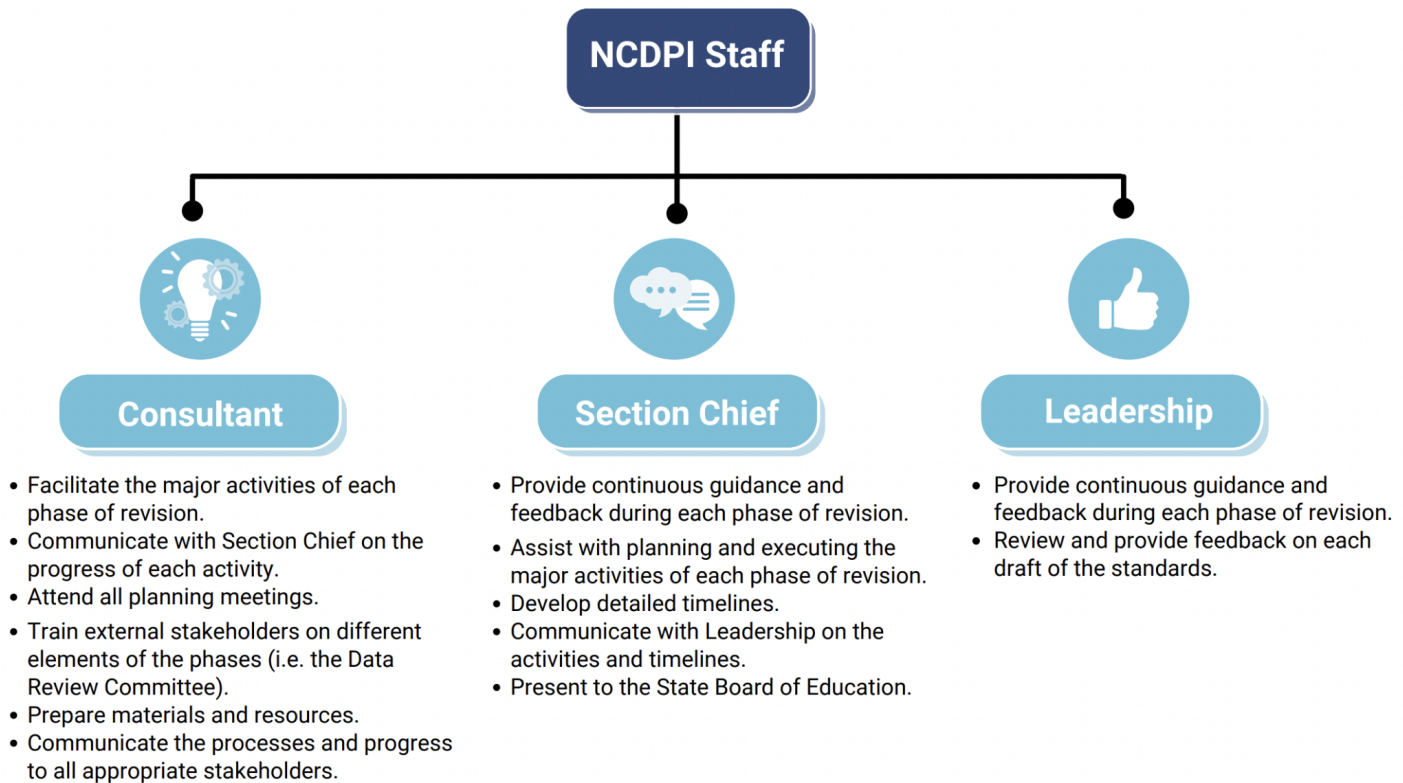
The left column in the chart below provides a high-level overview of NCDPI’s (SEA) role within the review, revision, and implementation of standards’ process. The right column provides a high-level overview of districts’ (LEA) role within this process.

State Education Agency (SEA)	Local Education Agencies (LEA)
Facilitates the review and revision of the NCSCOS	Develop and/or choose local curriculum and instruction, including textbooks
Develops standards-based resources	Implement resources from SEA
Provides professional development on the standards	Align local assessments to the approved standards
Collects ongoing data on local implementation to inform future support and resources	Provide local professional development as needed

Communicates with LEAs and other stakeholders throughout the review, revise, and implementation phases

Communicate with local stakeholders

NCDPI staff have clearly delineated responsibilities in the NCSCOS process determined by role:



Component 1: **Review** (approximately 12 months)

**The section chief is expected to use the [planning template](#) throughout the entire process. Each section of the template should be discussed and approved by division leadership.*

Extended Content Standards: The OEC staff do not conduct a Review phase for the extended content standards. A member of OEC attends the DRC meeting and orientation to foster connection and consistency between the two sets of standards.

Data Collection: All standards are reviewed on a perpetual cycle of five-to-seven years. The review process is designed to ensure clear, rigorous, and measurable standards that are easily understood by teachers, parents, and students, and are

articulated K-12 by grade, proficiency level, and/or course. NCDPI facilitates the standards review phase with the input of major stakeholders.

In order to streamline communication, a [spreadsheet](#) of each LEA, charter, and partner organization contact is created and maintained for accuracy.

To begin the review process of existing standards, NCDPI conducts data collection and feedback through five required methods:

Data Collection During Review Phase		
Method	Resources	Notes
All Stakeholder Standard-by-Standard Survey	Survey template	Timeframe: 5-8 weeks Send to all stakeholders through listservs, social media, agency channels, partner organizations, etc. with the general survey
PSU Standard-by-Standard Survey	Survey template	Timeframe: 5-8 weeks Send to leader contacts' list and ask that local teams convene and complete survey At least 75% of LEAs must respond to the survey before closing
General Survey	Survey template	Timeframe: 5-8 weeks Send to all stakeholders through listservs, social media, agency channels, partner organizations, etc. with the all stakeholder standard-by-standard survey

Regional Focus Groups	Focus group template	<p>Timeframe: 4 weeks</p> <p>Can be virtual or face-2-face</p> <p>Invite PSU teams (2 per PSU)</p> <p>Work with Regional Directors to plan and facilitate one session in each of the 8 SBE regions</p> <p>Work with Office of Charter Schools and others to plan and facilitate one session</p>
Interviews	Interview template	<p>Timeframe: 4 weeks</p> <p>Can be virtual or face-2-face</p> <p>Consider a variety of roles and invite at least one parent, one student, two IHE members, two business partners, two state organization representatives</p> <p>Conduct 8-10 interviews</p>

Focus Groups: The content area team provides copies of the current Standard Course of Study under review. Focus groups review all or a section of the standards, depending on the set-up of the session, and respond to a predetermined set of questions. Questions should include but are not limited to those below. Addition, deletion, or modification of this list should be approved by Office leadership prior to the focus groups.

- Do the standards make a clear statement of what the student should be able to do or understand? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Do the standards adhere to high expectations for all students? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Do the standards demonstrate appropriate depth and complexity? Please provide examples and/or explain.

- Are the standards concise and clearly articulated? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Are the standards impartial and free of discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, and/or disability? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Are the standards observable and measurable? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Describe your level of satisfaction with the breadth and depth of the standards and objectives.
- Do you have additional thoughts on the standards, based on your role, location, experience, etc.?

Interviews: The content area team provides copies of the current Standard Course of Study under review. Interviewees review all or a section of the standards, depending on the set-up, and respond to a predetermined set of questions. Questions should include but are not limited to those below. Addition, deletion, or modification of this list should be approved by Office leadership prior to the interviews.

- Do the standards make a clear statement of what the student should be able to do or understand? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Do the standards adhere to high expectations for all students? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Do the standards demonstrate appropriate depth and complexity? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Are the standards concise and clearly articulated? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Are the standards impartial and free of discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, and/or disability? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Are the standards observable and measurable? Please provide examples and/or explain.
- Describe your level of satisfaction with the breadth and depth of the standards and objectives.
- Do you have additional thoughts on the standards, based on your role, location, experience, etc.?

Research: As part of the standards review process, NCDPI conducts contemporary and current research on standards for the content area being reviewed. This research is intended to inform the review process through the collection of related legislative requirements, best practices, and benchmarking/crosswalking with state, national, and international standards. Research findings are shared with the Data Review Committee, once selected, to be reviewed and analyzed along with other related data collections.

Research for Standard Course of Study Review	
North Carolina SBE Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain relevant North Carolina State Board of Education policy pertaining to the content area being reviewed • Template
State and Federal Legislative Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain relevant State legislative requirements pertaining to the content area being reviewed • Explain any relevant Federal legislative requirements pertaining to the content area being reviewed • Template
State Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review similar content area standards in at least five other comparable states that have revised their standards within the last five years for the content area being reviewed • Template
National and International Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review national standards and/or frameworks • Review international standards and/or frameworks, if applicable • Template
Educational Research That Informs Standards Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research should include contemporary and current research on knowledge, concepts, and skills related to the content area under review • Summarize trends from institutions of higher education and other education agencies that are relevant to the content area under review • Summarize trends from business/industry representatives and national organizations that are relevant to the content area under review • Template

**The templates above should all be one spreadsheet.*

Data Review Committee (DRC): In order to ensure that a range of stakeholders with various professional and personal interests are involved in the review of the data collected about the current standards, a clear process of solicitation, application, screening, and approval takes place. The DRC involves educational leaders and community members from across the state's eight regions, with varying perspectives and experiences regarding the current Standard Course of Study. Their review of the data and recommendations helps drive the review and revision phases.

When planning for the DRC:

☐ **Determine areas of expertise and representation needed**

- Representation should include: subject matter expertise, grade level specialists (including teachers spanning K-12 subject areas), curriculum specialists, Exceptional Children specialist, English Language Development specialist, administrators, Gifted specialist, relevant strategic partners from the community, etc.
- Team members should represent the eight North Carolina educational regions as equitably as possible to reflect diversity and inclusion across the state.
- The number of groups and members needed depends upon grade level groups, grade band groups, etc.

☐ **Solicit and screen for DRC members**

- Share the application through listservs, social media, partner organizations (such as State Advisory Council on American Indian Education), and newsletters.
 - Application [template](#)
- Convene an internal team to review the applications and contact references.
 - Members from other Offices will be invited to serve on the internal selection team with members of the content area team
 - Identifiable information will be removed from the application prior to the review and selection
 - The content area team member who removes identifiable information will not be a member of the internal selection team
 - Selection guidelines and [documentation](#)
- Choose a representative number of members, as well as a list of 5-8 alternates in case of declines.
- Share selections with and obtain approval from Office leadership.

☐ **Alert team members of their participation**

- Distribute communication
 - [Scope of work](#)
 - Selection notification letter [template](#)
- Notify those that were not selected once the committee has been confirmed.

Once the data has been collected and the DRC has been identified, the NCDPI team uses collaboration tools to share the data and any reporting documents for analysis. Data documents, methodology, and a repository is shared with team members before the actual face-to-face or virtual meetings.

Once the surveys close and focus groups and interviews are completed, the raw data is organized and analyzed by DPI's Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration or

another group outside of the content area team conducting the review and revision. The content area only facilitates this step in the process. They do not conduct the data analysis and organization.

The NCDPI content team trains the DRC members on the data collected and how to analyze the provided data. The section chief embeds DRC workstreams and timelines into the review planning document for leadership approval. The NCDPI content team uses the slidedeck [template](#) for the first meeting of the DRC.

The DRC analyzes all data points for trends, themes, and ultimately recommendations for revision. DRC members use the data reporting [template](#) to organize data and corresponding recommendations. The analysis of the data provides team members the opportunity to analyze individually and then a mechanism for consensus building in small groups and/or large groups.

Once the DRC completes data analysis, NCDPI staff brings forward to the State Board of Education a recommendation for revision, if applicable, using the SBE slidedeck [template](#).

Review Phase Communication Checklist: Communication layers and loops are tightly embedded in every step of the review phase. Keep in mind that it is better to over-communicate than to under-communicate. The standards review process is transparent to leadership, the State Board of Education, educators, and the general public. Use the following checklist when planning the review phase:

- ☐ Plan an initial meeting with Office leadership to discuss questions, concerns, and the review section of the planning template.
- ☐ Plan at least bi-weekly (twice a month) check-ins with Office leadership.
- ☐ Create and send monthly Friday Updates to the State Board of Education to include updates on where the team is in the standards' review process and links to materials (as applicable).
- ☐ Create and distribute monthly listserv message updates; an example would be "ELA Mondays", in which the team creates a message to go out the first Monday of each month with updates on where the team is in the standards' review process.
- ☐ Develop an internal calendar with at minimum weekly content area team check-ins.

Component 2: Revision (approximately 12 months)

**The section chief is expected to use the [planning template](#) throughout the entire process. Each section of the template should be discussed and approved by division leadership.*

If the DRC recommends changes to the existing content standards and the State Board of Education approves permission to revise, NCDPI establishes and convenes a Standards Writing Team to review feedback and incorporate changes as necessary. The content area team and Office leadership will provide updates to the SBE at each monthly meeting throughout the revision phase (example presentation [template](#)).

Extended Content Standards: The OEC staff facilitate and conduct the steps outlined in this manual for the Revision phase of standards revision for the extended content standards. The content area team and OEC communicate throughout all steps. The content and extended content SWT teams attend the SWT meeting and orientation together to foster connection and consistency between the two sets of standards. The monthly SBE presentations include staff from the content team and OEC.

Standards Writing Team (SWT) Selection: The Revision Phase begins with establishing a SWT to create the draft(s) for a particular subject or content area. The SWT includes diverse perspectives and represents our state's regions, districts, charter schools, and other educational organizations in the content area education field. This team must have broad stakeholder involvement, which could include, but is not limited to, educators from the following groups:

- Classroom teachers* with various years of experience representing early learning, elementary, middle, and high school level expertise;
- District and charter school curriculum supervisors and/or instructional coaches*;
- Higher education faculty members* from the content area at early college, community college, and university programs and/or education departments;
- Individuals with previous standards writing experience or involvement in similar statewide initiatives, projects or teams;
- Members of content-area professional organizations at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international level.

* Indicates non-negotiable members of the SWT.

In order to ensure that a range of stakeholders with various professional and personal interests are involved in the revision and writing of the standards, a clear process of solicitation, application, screening, and approval takes place. The SWT contains educational leaders and community members from across the state's eight regions, with varying perspectives and experiences regarding the current Standard Course of Study.

When planning for the SWT:

☐ **Determine areas of expertise and representation needed**

- Representation should include: subject matter expertise, grade level specialists (including teachers spanning K-12 subject areas), curriculum

specialists, Exceptional Children specialist, English Language Development specialist, administrators, Gifted specialist, relevant strategic partners from the community, etc.

- Team members should represent the eight North Carolina educational regions as equitably as possible to reflect diversity and inclusion across the state.
- The number of groups and members needed depends upon grade level groups, grade band groups, etc.

☐ **Solicit and screen for standards writing team members**

- Share the application through listservs, social media, partner organizations (such as State Advisory Council on American Indian Education), and newsletters.
 - Application [template](#)
- Convene the internal team to review the applications and contact references.
 - Members from other Offices will be invited to serve on the internal selection team with members of the content area team
 - Identifiable information will be removed from the application prior to the review and selection
 - The content area team member who removes identifiable information will not be a member of the internal selection team
 - Selection guidelines and [documentation](#)
- Choose a representative number of members, as well as a list of 5-8 alternates in case of declines
- Share selections with and obtain approval from the state Superintendent.

☐ **Alert team members of their participation**

- Distribute communication
 - [Scope of work](#)
 - Selection notification letter [template](#)
- Notify those that were not selected once the team has been confirmed.

The Writing Process: In compliance with legislation for a uniform process to the development of standards for state courses in North Carolina, members of the SWT are given guidance to adhere to and follow as standards are being written. The NCDPI content team trains the SWT members on the task, goals, process, expectations, and roles of the revision phase. The section chief embeds SWT workstreams and timelines into the review planning document for leadership approval. The NCDPI content team uses the slidedeck [template](#) for the first meeting of the SWT.

The standards shall be written in a format according to the chart below:

Understanding the Structure of a North Carolina Content Standard (Subject-Verb-Object)	
NC.3.OA.8 Solve two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, and multiplication, representing problems using equations with a symbol for the unknown number.	The SUBJECT is always understood to be the student.
	The VERB requires the learner to be able to show their knowledge and understanding. In the example, <i>solve</i> is the verb.
	The OBJECT is the knowledge and/or content In the example, <i>two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, and multiplication, representing problems using equations with a symbol for the unknown number</i> is the content students should know after instruction has taken place.

Before the writing of the standards begins:

- ☐ Identify the course or grade-level content standards being revised.
- ☐ Identify the feedback on the existing standards, provided by the DRC, in order to determine any writing priorities.
- ☐ Ensure the writers have a fundamental understanding of the following:
 - ☐ Agreed upon official structure and sentence format
 - ☐ Agreed upon taxonomy
- ☐ Prep and share the standards' writing [documentation](#).

During the writing of the standards:

- ☐ Members collaborate as they write.
- ☐ When members are not gathered in face to face working sessions, writing takes place collaboratively via acceptable platforms.
- ☐ The content area leading the revision process makes writers aware of an online location that has been established for writing collaboration and document upload.
- ☐ Writers are expected to continue their work on revising and writing standards during the time between official NCDPI meeting sessions established on the timeline, which are shared by the content area leading the revision process.
- ☐ Individually and collectively, the writers use the checklist criteria within the standards' documentation to assess the standards as they are developed.
- ☐ The content area leading the revision process establishes set times to meet or communicate with (virtually or face to face) the SWT to provide support to the writers and periodic check points of where teams are collectively in the writing process, to ensure due dates and deadlines are met.
- ☐ Drafts 1-3 are determined and agreed upon by the entire SWT before final submission.

- ☐ Once each draft is reviewed internally (including but not limited to: division and agency leadership, EC, Accountability, Advanced Learning), the content area leading the revision process prepares the draft [document](#) for external review and follows the protocols set in place for communicating that the draft is being released for public review.
- ☐ After each public review of the drafts, the content area shares the categorized feedback with the DRC. The DRC uses the data to make additional recommendations to the SWT. The SWT makes appropriate revisions.
- ☐ The draft standards (Draft 3) are placed in a final [draft standards template](#) (same as above).
- ☐ The draft standards (Draft 3) and the current NCSCOS are placed in the approved [crosswalk template](#).
- ☐ The final draft, Draft 3, is prepared for the SBE presentation, as directed by Division and Agency leadership.

Criteria for Revising Standards: Standardized criteria is used throughout the writing process to guide those revising the standards. See [evaluation criteria](#). This set of criteria is based on the following 7 areas:



Once the SWT creates Drafts 1 and 2, the NCDPI content team conducts a feedback cycle. The chart below describes what steps are taken with each draft.

Draft 1	Draft 2	Draft 3
<p>All-stakeholder Standard-by-standard survey - open for 30 days</p> <p>Send to all stakeholders through listservs, social media, agency channels, partner organizations, etc.</p>	<p>General feedback survey - open for 30 days</p> <p>Send to all stakeholders through listservs, social media, agency channels, partner organizations</p>	<p>Presentation to the NC State Board of Education</p>
<p>PSU team survey - open for 30 days</p> <p>Send to leader contacts' list and ask that local teams convene and complete survey</p>	<p>Once the surveys close, the raw data is organized and analyzed by DPI's Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration or another group outside of the content area team conducting the review and revision. The content area only facilitates this step in the process. They do not conduct the data analysis and organization. OEC data does not follow this step in the process.</p>	<p>Discussion in March***</p>
<p>Once the surveys close, the raw data is organized and analyzed by DPI's Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration or another group outside of the content area team conducting the review and revision. The content area only facilitates this step in the process. They do not conduct the data analysis and organization. OEC data does not follow this step in the process.</p>	<p>Data collection analysis**</p>	

Data collection analysis *		Action in April***
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**The data collected regarding Draft 1 goes to the DRC. They review and make recommendations for the SWT to use as/if adjustments are needed.*

***The data collected regarding Draft 2 goes to the DRC. They review and make recommendations for the SWT to use as/if adjustments are needed.*

****Tentative; subject to change*

Revision Phase Communication Checklist: Communication layers and loops are tightly embedded in every step of the revision phase. Keep in mind that it is better to over-communicate than to under-communicate. The standards review process is transparent to leadership, the State Board of Education, educators, and the general public. Use the following checklist when planning the revision phase:

- ☐ Plan an initial meeting with Office leadership to discuss questions, concerns, and the revision section of the planning template.
- ☐ Plan at least bi-weekly (twice a month) check-ins with Office leadership.
- ☐ Provide updates to the SBE at each monthly meeting throughout the revision phase (example presentation [template](#)).
- ☐ Create and distribute monthly listserv message updates; an example would be “ELA Mondays”, in which the team creates a message to go out the first Monday of each month with updates on where the team is in the standards’ revision process.
- ☐ Develop an internal calendar with at minimum weekly content area team check-ins.

Component 3: Implementation (approximately 5-7 years)

**The section chief is expected to use the [planning template](#) throughout the entire process. Each section of the template should be discussed and approved by division leadership.*

Following SBE approval of the draft revised standards (Draft 3), NCDPI supports standards implementation by launching a state implementation plan, providing training, and collecting data and feedback to evaluate the implementation process.

Extended Content Standards: The OEC staff facilitate and conduct the steps outlined in this manual for the Implementation phase of standards revision for the extended content standards. The content area team and OEC communicate throughout all steps.

Installation (approximately 12 months before the standards are implemented)

During the Installation Phase, the approved standards are provided to all stakeholders including internal NCDPI staff, school districts, Institutions of Higher Education, business and industry, non-formal educators, organization, and parents. During this phase, the emphasis is on communication and pre-planning to prepare for the initial implementation year to include assessment transition and district professional development plan.

Communication

- ☐ Announce the approval of the standards in partnership with the NCDPI Communications team via social media and listserv.
- ☐ Articulate high-level actions for each phase of the transition period, using the planning template.
- ☐ Provide the new standards to the full educational community and other stakeholders (business and industry, IHEs, non-formal educators and organizations, families and communities, etc) in the state.
- ☐ Share the curriculum and assessment transition timelines.
- ☐ Disseminate talking points for various audiences, including FAQs, regarding the new standards.
- ☐ Update curriculum leader contacts in each PSU, as necessary.
- ☐ Engage the content area's standing external advisory group to provide thoughts and feedback on the support plans being developed

Accountability and Testing

- ☐ Finalize timeline for statewide assessment transition; include field testing plan and how this will be integrated into existing statewide assessments.
- ☐ Define a detailed plan to include blueprint development, item development, field testing, test development, pilot testing, alignment study, standard setting, operational implementation and reporting.
- ☐ Evaluate possible impacts on statewide accountability systems, and develop a transition plan.
- ☐ Begin implementation of timeline for statewide assessments.

Textbook Adoption

- ☐ Begin internal NCDPI processes for materials adoption, in collaboration with the state lead for textbook adoption.

Professional Development

- ☐ Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders (including the content area's advisory group) to identify statewide needs for professional learning.
- ☐ Facilitate training for all internal (NCDPI) stakeholders on the structure and understandings of revised standards using crosswalk and unpacking

documents.

- ☐ Identify ways to support PSUs who were unable to attend professional development training.
- ☐ Use a [common evaluation](#) with all standards' professional development.
- ☐ Analyze professional development data to make any necessary changes in offerings to ensure effectiveness.
- ☐ Create and share a [professional development plan](#).
- ☐ Provide face-to-face and virtual training in collaboration with Regional Directors and Office of Charter Schools.

Data Collection

- ☐ Begin to identify state-level policies and practices that support or impede implementation; develop action steps to eliminate barriers and build on strengths.
- ☐ Deploy a yearly [needs assessment](#) to collect data on standards' implementation and future needs.
- ☐ Plan and conduct a yearly [Quality Assurance Roundtable](#) (QAR).

Support Documents

- ☐ Review and update standards-aligned resources in instructional content repositories, etc.
- ☐ Create instructional support documents.
- ☐ Refer to the External Implementation Guide (**coming soon!**) for further details.

Initial Implementation (approximately 12 months)

During the Initial Implementation Phase, the emphasis is on the impact of implementation, creating and disseminating supporting instructional materials, and providing statewide professional development. The state begins to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation.

Communication

- ☐ Continue to provide updates on transition status to leadership via the annual report to the SBE (SCOS-012).
- ☐ Identify impacts of implementation and determine strategies to mitigate challenges.
- ☐ Update curriculum leader contacts in each PSU as necessary.
- ☐ Provide updates on transition status to leadership.

Accountability and Testing

- ☐ Adjust assessment implementation timeline as necessary.

- ☐ Begin transition plan for statewide accountability systems that are dependent on statewide assessments.
- ☐ Continue implementation of timeline for development of statewide assessments, release of test form and/or items, and conduct alignment study during the first operational year.

Textbook Adoption

- ☐ Continue internal DPI processes for materials adoption, in collaboration with the state lead for textbook adoption.

Professional Development

- ☐ Create and share a [professional development plan](#).
- ☐ Facilitate statewide training on the structure and understandings of revised standards using crosswalks, unpacking documents, parent materials, etc., in collaboration with Regional Directors and Office of Charter Schools.
- ☐ Contact districts that were unable to attend PD; conduct PD for those districts.
- ☐ Conduct professional learning opportunities at local, state, and national conferences.
- ☐ Use a [common evaluation](#) with all standards' professional development.
- ☐ Analyze professional development data to make any necessary changes in offerings to ensure effectiveness.

Data Collection

- ☐ Deploy a yearly [needs assessment](#) to collect data on standards' implementation and future needs.
- ☐ Plan and conduct a yearly [Quality Assurance Roundtable](#) (QAR).

Support Documents

- ☐ Continue reviewing and updating standards-aligned resources in instructional content repositories.
- ☐ Create instructional support documents.
- ☐ Refer to the External Implementation Guide (**coming soon!**) for further details.

Full Implementation (approximately 3-5 years)

During the Full Implementation Phase, the emphasis is on supporting, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of the standards' implementation in the PSUs. The state expands the understanding of the new standards and available resources and continues to offer professional development both regional and statewide with professional organizations.

Communication

- ☐ Identify impacts of implementation and determine strategies to mitigate challenges.
- ☐ Continue to provide updates on transition status to leadership via the annual report to the SBE (SCOS-012).
- ☐ Update curriculum leader contacts in each PSU as necessary.

Accountability and Testing

- ☐ Complete implementation of timeline for statewide assessments, culminating in standard setting on new assessments after first operational year.
- ☐ Continue transition plan for statewide accountability systems that are dependent on statewide assessments.

Textbook Adoption

- ☐ Complete the internal DPI processes for materials adoption, in collaboration with the state lead for textbook adoption.

Professional Development

- ☐ Create and share a [professional development plan](#).
- ☐ Continue to expand sessions on the new standards (“deeper dive”) and available resources; include opportunities to share lessons learned and brainstorm solutions to challenges.
- ☐ Conduct professional learning opportunities at local, state, and national conferences.
- ☐ Collaborate with LEAs, Regional Directors, and Office of Charter Schools to identify and address pockets of need.
- ☐ Use a [common evaluation](#) with all standards’ professional development.
- ☐ Analyze professional development data to make any necessary changes in offerings to ensure effectiveness.

Data Collection

- ☐ Deploy a yearly [needs assessment](#) to collect data on standards’ implementation and future needs.
- ☐ Plan and conduct a yearly [Quality Assurance Roundtable](#) (QAR).

Support Materials

- ☐ Continue reviewing and updating standards-aligned resources in instructional content repositories.
- ☐ Create instructional support documents.
- ☐ Refer to the External Implementation Guide (**coming soon!**) for further details.

Appendix A

NCSCOS Manual	DRC Acceptance Letter	Draft NCSCOS Template
Planning Template	DRC Training Slides	Crosswalk
Leaders' Contact Spreadsheet	Data Collection Analysis (Review)	SbyS Survey (Revision)
SbyS Survey (Review)	SBE Permission to Revise Slides	PSU SbyS Survey (Revision)
General Survey (Review)	SBE Monthly Template	Draft 1 Data Collection Analysis
PSU SbyS Survey (Review)	SWT Application	Draft 2 Feedback Survey
Focus Groups' Template	SWT Selection Documentation	Draft 2 Data Collection Analysis
Interviews' Template	SWT Scope of Work	SBE Approval Slides
Research Template	SWT Acceptance Letter	Common PD Evaluation
DRC Application	SWT Training Slides	PD Plan
DRC Selection Documentation	Standards' Writing Document	Needs Assessment
DRC Scope of Work	Evaluation Criteria	Quality Assurance Review

Appendix B

Glossary

Assessment

The process through which the progress and achievements of a learner or learners is measured or judged in compliance with specific quality criteria.

Extended Content Standards or Alternate Achievement Standards

Identify the most essential knowledge and skills—the essence of the standard—that students with significant cognitive disabilities should master. This means that the basic content that all students are learning is the same, but the depth, breadth, and complexity of what is expected differs. Alternate achievement standards simply define the level of content mastery that students with significant cognitive disabilities are expected to demonstrate on the alternate assessment. Students may exceed these performance standards when they are taught in inclusive environments and held to high expectations, so the alternate achievement standards should not be used to limit what a student is taught. The standards must be clearly related to grade-level content, although they may be restricted in scope or complexity or take the form of introductory or pre-requisite skills.

Concept Map

An external network-like representation of knowledge structures consisting of spatially grouped nodes with keywords representing concepts, connecting lines representing the semantic connection of concepts, and labels on the lines specifying the kind of semantic relation.

Learning Outcomes

The totality of information, knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values, skills, competencies or behaviors a learner has mastered upon the successful completion of an education program.

Objectives

Objectives are a specific statement of what the student will know or be able to do. Objectives are learning objectives, not activities, that elaborate further on the Standard. Objectives provide details about the learning that will take place and serve as the basis for assessment.

Standard Course of Study (SCOS)

According to the North Carolina SBE's policy manual, a standard course of study "means the program of coursework which must be available to all public school students in the state. It defines the appropriate content standards for each grade level and each high school course to provide a uniform set of learning standards for every public school in North Carolina " The NCSCOS is the legal document that defines the programs of study in each of the subject or skills areas required to be offered and available in each school. It must be developed both grade by grade and, at the high school level, course by course.

Standards

Standards are the “need to know” that provide curricular focus on conceptual ideas and enduring understandings.

Strands

The strand represents how the essential standards are organized. A strand represents an organizing feature content area of focus, or disciplinary skill, e.g., in social studies the organization may be focused on disciplinary strands such as geography, history, economics, etc., in science the standards may be organized around areas of focus such as force and motion or ecosystems, and in math standards may be organized around areas of study such as geometry, functions, statistics and probability.

Unpacking Documents

Materials created to support teacher leaders in their understanding of the Standard Course of Study.