

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Office of Academics, Indiana Department of Education

Date: February 25, 2020

Re: Standards Review for English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies

Pursuant to IC 20-31-3-3, the Indiana Department of Education shall revise and update academic standards on a cyclical basis at least once every six years. English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies were last revised and updated in 2014. Thus, to conform to code, these academic subject areas were required to be updated no later than 2020. Pursuant to IC 20-31-3-4, the State Superintendent should appoint a committee of subject area teachers, higher education representatives with subject area expertise, and parents to serve on this committee.

Committees were formed for English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies, and the standards were reviewed. These committees met three or four times over the course of 2019. IDOE and the participants on the committees showed a commitment to the stability of teaching and learning in Indiana, with only minor revisions occurring in most sets of standards. The findings of the committee members were based, in part, on the results of the Fordham Report released in August 2018, which gave Indiana English/Language Arts and Mathematics standards very strong marks.

Standards for English/Language Arts, grades 9-12, showed minor changes, and these standards were released for public comment. Additionally, the high school mathematics courses of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II showed the greatest number of revisions in the standards, reflecting, in part, the national conversation around the modernization of mathematics. The committee also considered recommendations from national organizations, such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, when considering any revisions. These standards were also released for public comment. After the comment period, the committee considered all comments to make final recommendations.

Having met the parameters established by Indiana Code, the Department recommends the Board approve the standards for English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies.