



## **JANUARY 2019 LEGISLATIVE BRIEF: OKLAHOMA ACADEMIC STANDARDS (OAS)**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

The Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS) serve as expectations for what students should know and be able to do in a given subject area by the end of the school year. These standards are written by Oklahomans for Oklahoma. The development, review and revision process involves stakeholders throughout the state and is an ongoing and critical component to ensuring students in every classroom receive current and relevant learning experiences. The goal is for all students to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school.

### **HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?**

HB 3399 (2014) set up a new process for the revision of all standards (70 O.S. §11-103.6a-1). Each year as standards are adopted or updated for different subjects, they are subsequently submitted to the Legislature for review and approval. If the Legislature does not act to explicitly approve the standards, they are deemed to be approved. House Bill 3399 also required the Oklahoma State Board of Education to create new academic standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (70 O.S. §11-103.6a), which were certified by the State Regents for Higher Education as college and career ready in January 2016. The Legislature approved the new ELA and math standards along with new health and physical education standards in 2016.

### **WHAT'S NEW?**

Since adoption of the ELA and math standards in 2016, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), for the first time, has created academic standards for Computer Science starting in Pre-K. Oklahoma is one of only nine other states providing expectations for computer science education and is one of just three to do so with grade-specific standards. The OSDE is also reviewing and revising the academic standards for Social Studies and Personal Financial Literacy and will submit them to the Legislature for approval in the 2019 Legislative Session. The Social Studies standards will include a greater emphasis on civics as required by H.B. 3311 (2018).

The OSDE continues to support all teachers in teaching new standards through resources like the Oklahoma Curriculum Frameworks. Curriculum frameworks are sets of curricular resources developed by Oklahoma teachers to help educators translate the Oklahoma Academic Standards into classroom practice. They illustrate what is expected of students at each grade level by examining the intent of each standard and providing instructional options to support student learning. These tools may be helpful to educators as they evaluate, select and implement instruction, curriculum and classroom assessments aligned to standards.

The OSDE also developed support documents for families in 2018. OSDE Family Guides are resources aligned with the Oklahoma Academic Standards and developed specifically for families to complement classroom learning. They illustrate what is expected of students at each grade level in different content areas along with activities families can do at home to further support children's learning experiences. They are currently available for grades PreK-2 with grades 3-5 coming later this year.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the difference between academic standards and curriculum?**

Standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do, what they might be asked to do to give evidence of learning and how well they should be expected to know or do it. Curriculum is the program devised or selected by local school districts used to prepare students to meet standards. It consists of research-based activities and lessons at each grade level, instructional materials and various instructional techniques.

### **How are academic standards developed?**

The standards revision process is led by an executive committee which selects and oversees the work of the writing committee and draft committee who are charged with revising the academic standards for each subject area. Committees are comprised of representatives from K-12 education, including teachers, curriculum directors, instructional coaches and administrators; higher education and communities. Committee members are selected based on their understanding of what students should know and be able to do, as well as their knowledge of how to clearly define high-quality, rigorous standards that are user-friendly for teachers. The OSDE provides multiple opportunities for stakeholder feedback through focus groups, surveys, expert reviews, public drafts and content consortiums.

### **How do the standards prepare students for life after high school?**

The Oklahoma Academic Standards include an emphasis on both content for various disciplines as well as reasoning, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. Each set of standards ensure these skills are incorporated in ways that enhance students' abilities to learn the content standards.

### **When do districts adopt new textbooks/instructional materials aligned to new standards?**

The textbook selection cycle follows the standards revision cycle (see list below). After standards are adopted, the State Textbook Committee reviews all instructional materials in light of the state content standards and conducts a bidding process to secure a state contract, reducing the purchase cost for districts. The Committee is comprised of parents, teachers, and community members who have been appointed by the Governor. The Committee meets in the fall following approval of new standards and contracts are in place for the following school year. For example, materials for social studies will be available for purchase in the 2020-2021 school year (pending approval in spring of 2019).

### **What other Oklahoma Academic Standards exist?**

- Social Studies and Personal Financial Literacy - to be approved 2019
- Computer Science - approved 2018
- Physical Education, Health - approved 2016
- Mathematics and English Language Arts - approved 2016
- World Languages - approved 2015
- Science, Fine Art and Music - approved 2014 (to be reviewed in 2019 and submitted to the Legislature in 2020)

## **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?**

- [Curriculum Frameworks](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-curriculum-frameworks): [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-curriculum-frameworks](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-curriculum-frameworks)
- [OAS \(All Subjects\)](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards): [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards)
- [Oklahoma Family Guides](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-family-guides): [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-family-guides](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-family-guides)