



For Immediate Release
February 13, 2014

Indiana Academic Standards Evaluated by Educators to Determine Indiana Guidelines

(Indianapolis) Four busy worktables were encircled by Indiana educators today, as they worked to reach consensus on new academic standards for Indiana students. The day is the first of two, open to the public, where education experts are hard at work in determining the best academic guidelines for all Hoosier classrooms.

Evaluators are considering standards examples from multiple sources in determining those most relevant and appropriate for Indiana students' knowledge base. The standards are essential, both in providing consistent direction to teachers for curriculum design as well as in establishing assessment mechanisms to determine student progress and achievement.

Session moderator Sujie Shin, assistant director of the Center for Standards and Assessment Implementation, commended Indiana for its current effort, complimenting "the inclusion of such a large number of experts in the room and the state's goal of reflecting what Indiana really wants to study and sees as important."

The evaluators attended a training class last week, and were selected via their previous engagement with the Department of Education's (DOE) technical, advisory, and/or college and career ready evaluation teams. Following training, each member completed an independent evaluation, comparing different sets of standards.

Math standards used in the comparison include the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, current Indiana standards (adopted as Common Core in 2010), and the 2000 and 2009 Indiana Math Standards. English/Language Arts Standards included current Indiana Standards, National Council of Teachers of English standards, 2006 Indiana Academic Standards, and Massachusetts State Standards for English/Language Arts.

State Board of Education (SBOE) member Dr. Brad Oliver has led the board efforts to comprehensively evaluate the academic standards, as required by HEA 1427, with the board's adoption of new recommendations to be completed by July 1, 2014. The open and collaborative process was jointly designed by staff from the Center for Education and Career Innovation and the DOE.

"I am most appreciative of the work of our expert evaluation panels to complete a rigorous review of Math and English content standards," said Oliver. "The Board's evaluation process, designed to allow for extensive public input, will culminate in draft Indiana College and Career Ready standards intended to ensure Hoosier children are ready for the college or career pathway they choose."

After Friday's team sessions are completed, the recommended standards will be collected into a master draft and available for public comment on February 19th. Three public hearings will be held to collect public testimony, as well as a three-week online comment period for those who are not able to attend the hearings.

Following consideration of the public input, the standards will be reviewed by the DOE's College and Career Readiness panel for a final review, and then sent to Education Roundtable. Ultimately, they should arrive at the SBOE meeting in April for final consideration by the Board. The SBOE had expressed the goal of approving standards in the spring in an effort to allow schools and teachers appropriate planning time to develop curriculum and new lesson plans to best meet the new standards requirements for the fall school sessions.

-30-

***For a timeline of the overall standards process, list of evaluation committee members, and public hearing information, please visit: <http://www.in.gov/sboe/2505.htm>.

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