
Science Curriculum Standards, 9-12

The Background:

State of Tennessee

Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards for the Governance of Tennessee Public Schools (0520-1-3-.05, State Curriculum, Requirement D) states

The State Board of Education shall adopt a curriculum framework for each subject area, grades K-12. These frameworks shall contain the broad goals and objectives which identify the minimum content required at each grade level and for each course. The approved courses shall be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system. The established six year cycle for the selection and adoption of textbooks shall determine the order of implementation of the state curriculum framework, grades K-12. The state curriculum framework for each subject shall be distributed to local school systems at least one full school year prior to the year in which the textbooks are to be adopted.

The current science framework has been in place since 2003-2004. A revised curriculum framework for science must be implemented by school districts during the 2009-2010 school year. The Department of Education has now completed a standards revision process for 9-12 science. Approval of the new curriculum by January 2008 will enable the Tennessee Department of Education to meet the State Board requirement of having an approved set of standards for guidance with the science textbook adoption during school year 2008-2009.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the State Board's Master Plan by providing a high quality science curriculum that has been developed in accordance with the national standards in science, is aligned with the National Assessment for Educational Progress 2009 Science Framework, and ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of the updated 9-12 science curriculum standards on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.