

# Establishing a Fully Aligned System of Standards and Assessments in Nevada

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EXHIBIT E Education

Document consists of 21 pages.

× Entire document provided.

☐ Due to size limitations, pages \_\_\_\_\_ provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

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# First, a Little Background

- 1977 NV Legislature established High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)
- In the 1980's Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) Writing, Reading, Mathematics
- 1994 -Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), requiring states to have standards-based assessments



# Background (cont)

- 1997 -Council to Establish Academic Standards is established by the Legislature

First graduating class impacted by" new HSPE" based on 1994 course of study

Nevada Education Reform Act (NERA)  
passed by Legislature



# Background (cont)

- 1998 -Standards developed and approved by Standards Council, adopted by State Board of Education
  - English Language Arts (ELA)
    - Reading
    - Writing
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- Implementation of Nevada Education Reform Act (NERA) passed by Legislature in 1997



# Background (cont)

- 1999-2000 Development of new HSPE based on 1998 standards
- 2002 -Passage of the federal No Child Left Behind Act
  - Mandated use of Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs)
  - Required development of CRTs in:
    - Grades 3-8 and HS in Reading and Mathematics
    - One science test in each grade span of 3-5, 6-8, and H



# What Are Standards?

- Standards define what students should know and be able to do, assessments determine when these skills should be mastered.
- Districts ensure that students have the opportunity to experience the standards through instruction.
- HSPE and CRTs – measure a subset of the content defined by the standards



# Recent Standards Activities

- 2005: Science Revision
- 2006: Mathematics Revision
- 2007: ELA Revision
- 2009: Social Studies Revision
- 2009: ELA Clarification\*

\*Required activity under Compliance Agreement  
with United States Department of Education



# Standards Are Dynamic Documents and Require Periodic Revision

- Nevada's revision cycle was originally tied to the adoption of textbooks/instructional materials
- Adjust curriculum and instruction to reflect best practice and research
- Revision and assessment activities require time for implementation





# Current Schedule for Revision of Academic Standards (Based on 7-yr Cycle)

- 2011: Science
- 2012: Mathematics
- 2013: ELA
- 2014: Social Studies



# Impact on Assessment Development (Using Proposed Science Schedule as an Example)

Completed By:

Revision of Standards - July 2011  
Public Comment Period - Aug 2011  
Adopted by Council and Board - Nov 2011  
Develop assessment Design - Jan 2012  
Item Writing - May 2012  
Content Review of Items - June 2012  
Item Reconciliation - July 2012  
Bias Review of Items - Aug 2012  
Develop Instructional Materials - Aug 2012  
Field Items are assessed - Spr 2013  
Live (Operational) assessment - Spr 2014  
Standard Setting (Proficiency Levels) - May 2014



# Standards and Assessment Development Schedule

- Assessment Activities Apply to Both the Alternate and General Ed Assessment in:
  - Reading & Mathematics, grades 3-8 and HS (14 assessments)
  - Science and Writing,\* grades 5, 8, and HS (6 assessments)

\*Assessment activities and timeline differ because of the nature of the General Ed writing assessment



# Challenges to School Districts

- District textbook adoption policies do not necessarily align with standards revision process
- Develop materials to support revised standards to provide opportunity to learn
- Professional development and dissemination of changes to curriculum and instruction based on revision of standards
- Time to complete all activities associated with standard and assessment activities



# Standard Setting Process

(Determination of Achievement Levels)

- “New” assessments are administered to students
  - The United States Department of Education (USD OE) expects states to standard set when standards and assessments are changed.
  - Nevada’s Technical Advisory Committee has suggested standards setting when the construct of the assessment changes



# Standard Setting Process (cont)

- Using actual assessment items and student data, Nevada educators and stakeholders are assembled to make recommendations regarding the proficiency cuts for each grade level
- Student responses are collected and analyzed by assessment vendor



# Standard Setting Process (cont)

- Recommended proficiency cuts are presented to State Board of Education
- State Board reviews impact data and recommendations to adopt cut scores for each proficiency level
- Adopted scores are then mapped onto a scale (i.e. 100 – 500) to be used in reporting student results





# Standard Setting Process (cont)

- Standard setting Plan
  - Spring 2010 – standard setting for Mathematics, Science, and the Alternate Assessments (Mathematics, Science and ELA)
  - Spring 2011 – standard setting for Reading





# Challenges for Nevada Department of Education

- Disseminate information about the standards and assessments
- Ensure that educators and stakeholders share an understanding of the intent, depth and breadth of the standards
- Establishing a fully aligned system (curriculum - standards - \*assessments)
  - \* compliance agreement/best practice



# Challenges for Nevada Department of Education

- Limited content/assessment staff
  - Mathematics (2\*)  
K-12 standards and 14 assessments
  - Reading and Writing (3\*)  
K-12 standards and 15 assessments
  - Science (1)  
K-12 standards and 4 assessments
  - CRT/HSPE consultant (1)  
over sees all content and assessments (3-8 & HSPE)

\*staff size "Increase" based on internal restructuring due to increasing demands



# Anticipated Impacts of National Core Standards

- Alignment study to compare Nevada's standards to national standards
- Standards revision committees would meet to address differences
  - Add "missing" standards
  - Determine which "extra" standards should be kept



# Anticipated Impacts of National Core Standards (Cont)

- Much of the standards and assessment activities described in previous slides would start over
- A decision would have to be made regarding revision of both math and ELA standards, or use a staggered approach as is currently followed
- A decision about Science revision would have to be made



# Anticipated Impacts of National Core Standards (Cont)

- These decisions will affect assessment activities for both the general and alternate assessments
  - Increased cost to assessment contract
  - NDE and school district staff impact
  - Additional training and PD for schools and teachers

