COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(*Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS]* 389.510)

DESCRIPTION

Duties: The Council to Establish Academic Standards in Education addresses the establishment and revision of the State's academic standards.

Selection Process: The Council consists of eight members; members are appointed by the Governor (four members) and Legislative Leadership (four members).

Budget: State funding of approximately $10,000 in each fiscal year of the 2009-2011 biennium supports the operation of the Council. In addition, State funding of $35,000 is contained in the budget for the Legislative Committee on Education for contract services for the Council over the 2009-2011 biennium. Although the 2009 Legislature did not approve State funding for the review of standards during the 2009-2011 biennium, funding of $51,480 in FY 2007-2008 was appropriated for that purpose.

Communication Structure:

- ✓ Department of Education: Pursuant to NRS 389.530, the Department of Education provides administrative support, equipment, and office space, as is necessary for the Council to carry out its duties.

- ✓ State Board of Education: Pursuant to NRS 389.520, the State Board of Education reviews and adopts the standards as submitted by the Council. The State Board may object to the standards and return those standards to the Council with an explanation. The State Board must adopt the standards as resubmitted, with or without revisions.

- ✓ Legislative Committee on Education and State Board: Pursuant to NRS 389.570, the Council reports the results of an evaluation of student performance in achieving the standards of performance, as measured by the criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) to the Legislative Committee on Education and the State Board.

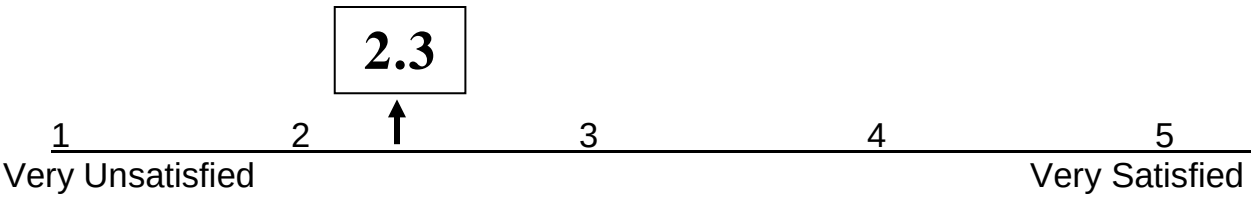
- ✓ Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP): Pursuant to NRS 391.544, the RPDP must provide training for teachers in the academic standards established by the Council.

EXHIBIT D Education Governance Document consists of 9 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).**
Meeting Date 012110

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents: 44 Surveys, Representing 73 Respondents

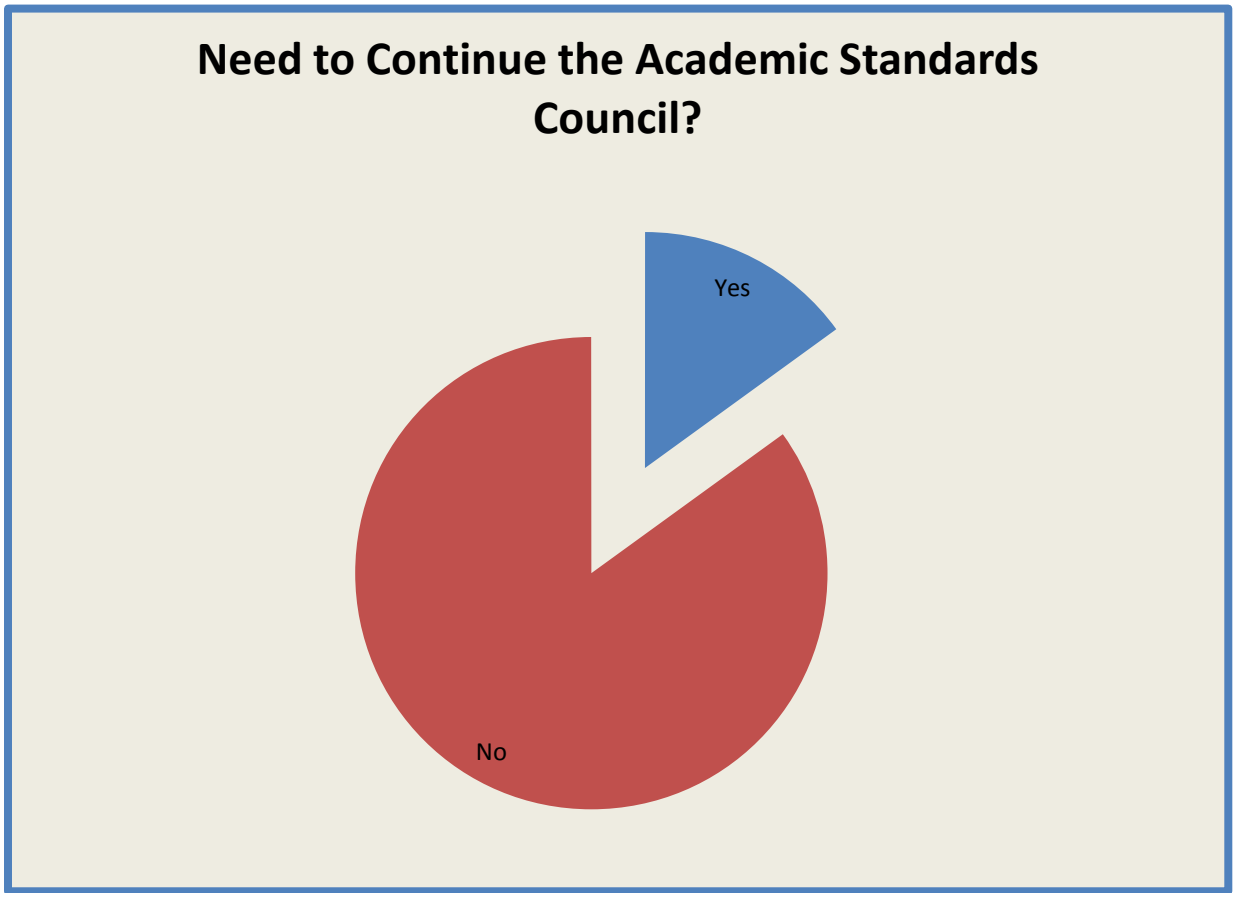
How satisfied are you with the process for developing and approving the academic standards in Nevada? (n=40)



Comments:

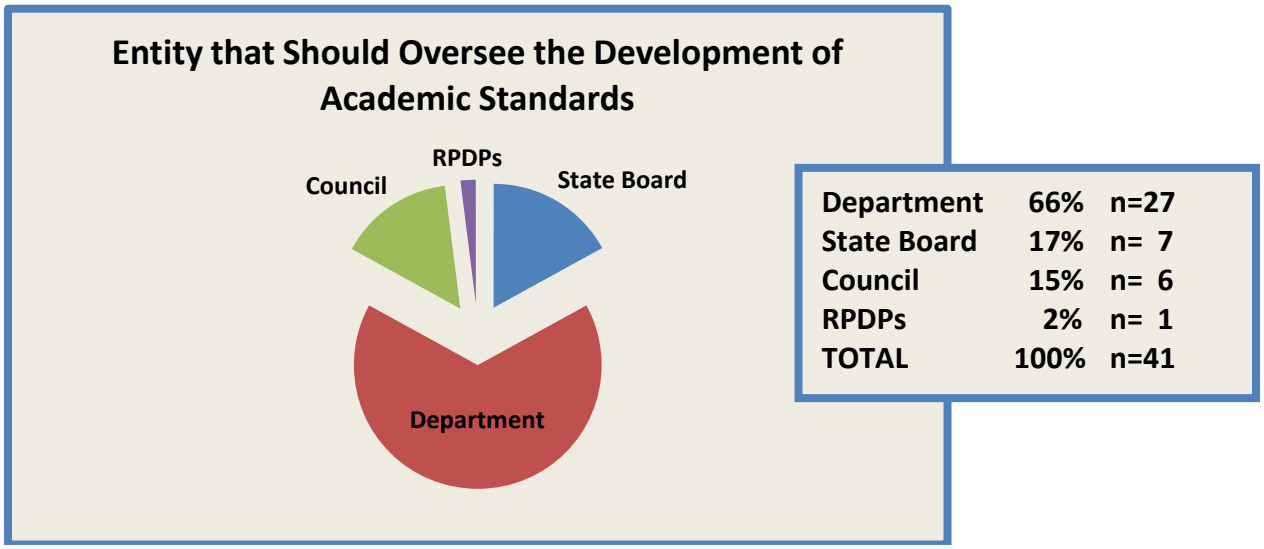
- The Council is not effective; it is unnecessary. (n=5)
- The process does not produce high quality, rigorous standards. (n=3)
- Members lack the qualifications to make decisions concerning academic standards. (n=2)
- Duplication of duties with Department staff, which delays the approval process. (n=3)
- The Council works well. (n=1)
- There is insufficient funding to support the development of high quality standards. (n=1)

Based upon your knowledge, is there a need in Nevada to continue the Council in its current form?



No	85%	n=35
Yes	15%	n= 6
TOTAL	100%	n=41

Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for overseeing the development of the academic standards in Nevada? (n=41)



Comments:

- The Department should oversee the development of the standards. The Department should continue to convene a review committee with a wide range of stakeholders, to include the school districts and business. (n=8)

- Having the Department oversee the development of the standards would increase the efficiency of the process. (n=6)

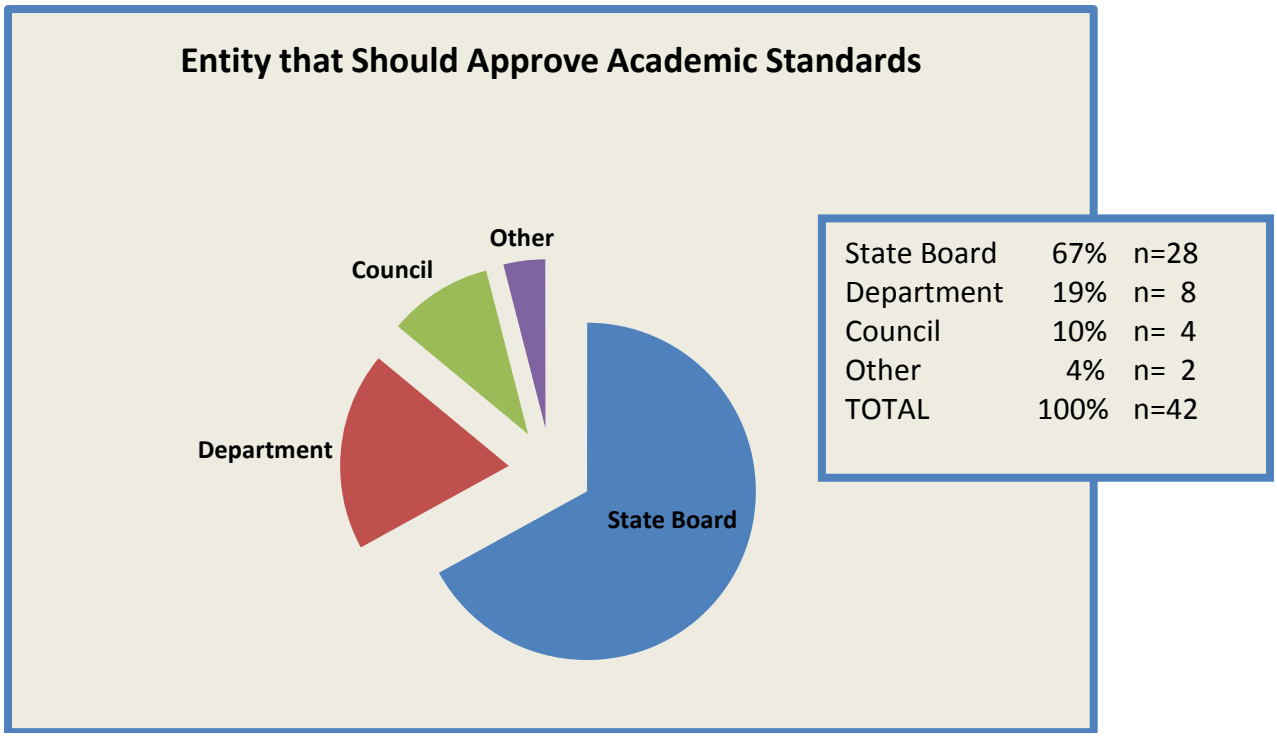
- Due to the importance of the state academic standards, the State Board should oversee the development. (n=1)

- Using a collaboration model, the RPDPs should oversee the development of the standards and provide training in why and how changes to the standards could be made. (n=1)

- The Council should remain, as is. The Council is primarily a non-political entity. (n=1)

- The Council should remain, as is. However, if national standards are mandated, the Council should be placed under the State Board. (n=1)

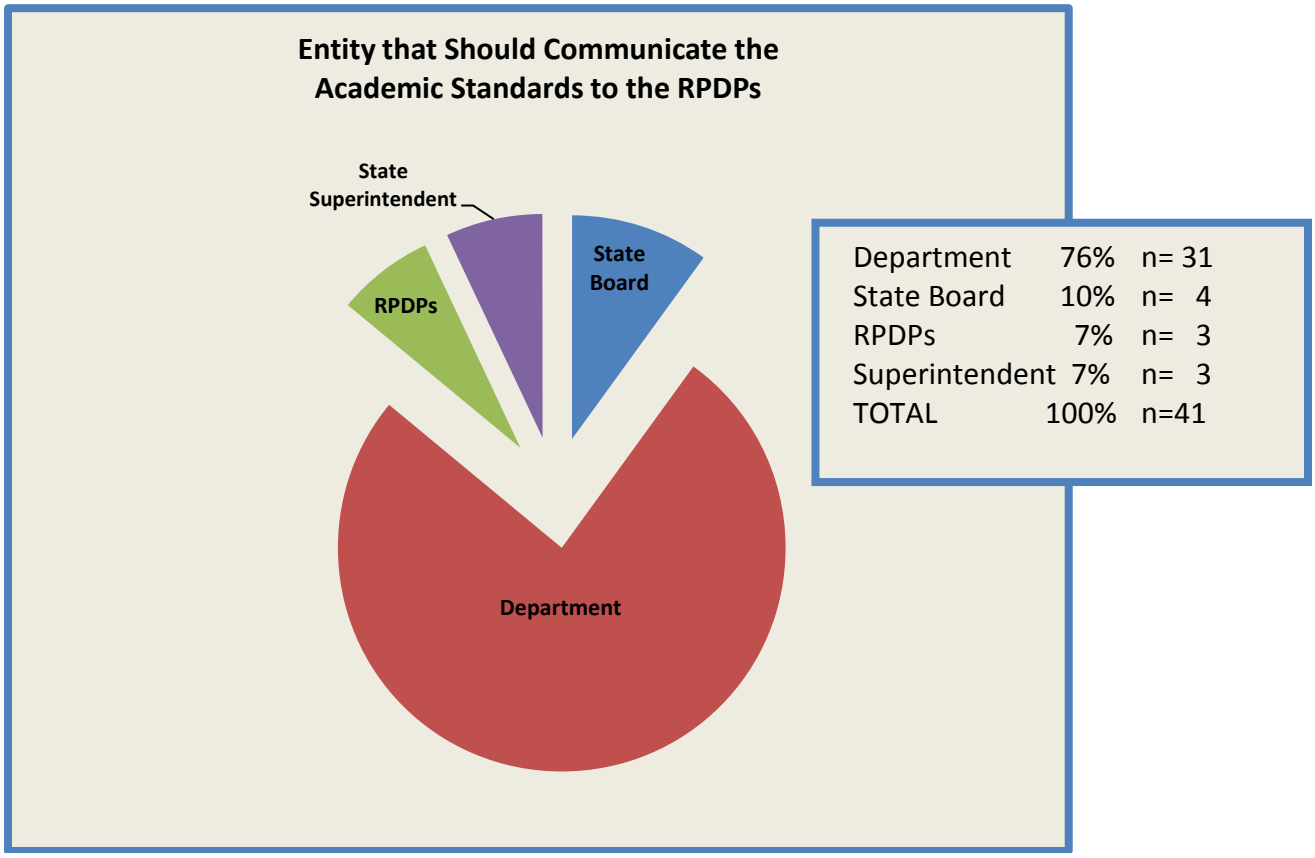
Within your <u>ideal system</u> for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for <u>approving</u> the academic standards in Nevada? (n=42)



Comments:

- The State Board should approve the standards, but only if the Board is re-constituted to become more functional. (n=3)
- The State Board should approve the standards; this would make the process more efficient. However, the process the State Board utilizes to approve the standards should be clearly defined to the process remains efficient. (n=1)
- The approval process should be a joint process with the Council, Department, State Board, and the school districts. (n=1)

Within your <u>ideal system</u> for public education governance, who should be the primary entity responsible for <u>communicating the statewide academic standards to the Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP)</u>? (n=41)



Comments:

- The Department should have the direct responsibility to communicate the standards to the RPDPs. The Nevada Revised statutes should be revised to reflect this. (n=2)

- The RPDPs need to increase communication with all entities involved in the process. (n=1)

If the Council is continued, the following ideas represent revisions to increase the Council's effectiveness.

- Revise the membership of the Council. Include: business representatives, community representatives, parents, and higher education. Remove legislators as members. (n=3)

- If the State Board is not reconstituted, the Council should remain. However, it should develop and adopt the standards. It should be more than a rubber stamp. (n=1)

- The State Superintendent should supervise the Council. (n=1)

- The Council should hold meetings regularly. (n=1)

- Provide sufficient funding for the Council to utilize outside consultants with expertise. Sufficient funding should also be provided for an outside review of Nevada's standards in the four core academic subjects by a group such as Achieve. (n=1)

If the Council is <u>not</u> continued, the following ideas represent how the functions of the Council could be continued.

- The Department should develop and communicate the standards to the RPDPs; the State Board should approve the standards. (n=14)

- Reconstitute the State Board. The Department should develop and communicate the standards; the reconstituted State Board should approve. (n=4)

- The Department should oversee the entire process. (n=4)

- Provide sufficient funds to the Department to hire internal and external experts in developing the academic standards. (n=4)

- The school districts need to participate in the process. (n=1)

- The State Board should oversee the entire process. (n=1)