

**Testimony on House Bill 237
November 20, 2013**

Ohio House Education Committee
Representative Gerald Stebelton, Chair

Tom Gunlock, Vice President and Mr. C. Todd Jones, Chair of Achievement Committee
State Board of Education of Ohio

Chairman Stebelton, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for allowing me and Mr. C. Todd Jones to testify on House Bill 237. Both Mr. Jones and I currently serve as members of the State Board of Education but we are testifying as individuals rather than on half of the State Board of Education. We would like to take this opportunity to walk you through the development process undertaken by the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education staff that resulted in Ohio's New Learning Standards being adopted in June 2010. The sheer volume of activities is difficult to summarize in the time allotted this evening for testimony. For your benefit, we have provided a timeline that summarizes the major activities during the development and implementation process for your consideration.

The State Board of Education, with the help of the Ohio Department of Education, began its own review of Ohio's academic content standards in 2007 responding to educator concerns that Ohio's previous standards were numerous and lacked depth requiring topics to be retaught year after year. While maintaining Ohio's important and traditional focus on local control of curriculum materials and methods of teaching in the classroom, the Board set out to create higher standards in all major subject areas so that students are better prepared for college and careers. The Ohio Department of Education began by conducting an international benchmarking study in English language arts, mathematics and science to learn from and compare Ohio's education system to the persistently highest achieving nations. Combining the findings of that study, model standards and the best practices in other states, and critiques of our standards by professional organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, expert reviewers and Ohio's educators, the Department laid out these guiding principles for the revised standards:

- They should be fewer, clearer and higher;
- They must be aligned with college and work expectations;
- They will be internationally benchmarked;
- They must include both rigorous content *and* application of high-order skills;

- They must build upon strengths and lessons learned about the previous content standards; and
- They will be evidence- and/or research-based.

In the spring of 2009, while Ohio was conducting its research and House Bill 1 was progressing through the legislative process, 40 Chief State School Officers met in Chicago, based primarily from the interest of the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State Schools Officers, to discuss a state-led effort to create common content standards in English language arts and mathematics.

Two years after Ohio initiated its own work on updating the standards, in April 2009, Ohio entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the Common Core State Standards Initiative. It should be noted that Ohio did not adopt the standards at this time, but only agreed to participate in the process because the guiding principles for this initiative were essentially the same as Ohio's.

Once Ohio joined the work on the Common Core, Ohio shared all of its own research and preliminary work with the larger group. Two Ohio Department of Education staff, Brad Findell, Mathematics Initiatives Administrator, and Sasheen Phillips, Associate Director for the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, represented Ohio on the work groups for mathematics and English language arts, respectively. Ohio had an influential presence in the development of these standards.

In the process of proposing revisions to the standards, Ohio was committed to forming partnerships with professional organizations as well as educators at all levels throughout the state. As part of this outreach process, the State Board of Education discussed the standards process and the efforts related to the Common Core Standards Initiative at numerous public meetings during 2009 and 2010. The Department of Education also conducted focus groups and made presentations explaining both the process and the resulting content standards to a wide range of stakeholder groups as outlined in the attached timeline.

Two meetings were held in June 2009 to discuss the staff's first thinking on the standards revision and to solicit feedback from the field. These meetings included the leadership of 55 educational stakeholder groups and 200 teachers across four content areas. Other educational stakeholder groups were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed guiding principles through a web survey in July 2009. Over 700 responses were received.

From July 2009 through March 2010, the Department's English language arts and mathematics teams met with their respective advisory and work teams. Approximately 80 people served on these teams and represented the interests of both the state's teachers' unions, higher

education, special education, gifted education, content-specific professional organizations and parents. The advisory and workgroup teams reviewed and provided feedback on the standards.

A first public draft of the K-12 standards was released in March 2010. Ohio was the first state in the nation to hold regional public awareness and input meetings across the state. Five regional meetings were held from March 22 to March 26, 2010, with more than 500 people in attendance. Nationally, over 9,600 public comments were made on the standards, with responses from Ohio comprising one of the largest numbers from any one state.

The Department of Education also appeared before both the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate Education Committees in May 2010 to discuss the Common Core Standards Initiative and the State Board's intent to adopt the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English language arts. Subsequently, at a public meeting in June of 2010, the State Board adopted new Ohio content standards for mathematics and English language arts based on the Common Core with a unanimous vote.

In 2010-2011, Ohio began phasing in the content standards through a four-year transition and implementation plan. Currently, Ohio is in its fourth year of implementation. Over this four-year transition period, schools and districts have done much to prepare for implementation of the new standards. For example, districts adjusted their local curricula and teachers engaged in professional development and adjusted their instructional methods.

We hope this information has helped you gain a better understanding of Ohio's influential role in the development of the standards and the extensive public outreach that took place during that development process. Again, the major activities that took place are included in the timeline attached to this testimony. We would be happy to entertain any questions you may have at this time.

Standards Development Timeline

2007

- Ohio began its own review of its 2001 academic content standards to respond to concerns of educators across the state.
- Ohio began international benchmarking work.

2008

May

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard presentation on international benchmarking.

November

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard a presentation on international benchmarking

2009

March

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard a presentation on international benchmarking and academic content standards revision

April

- Ohio entered a memorandum of agreement to participate in the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Ohio did not adopt the standards at this time, but only agreed to participate in the process

May

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard an update on the standards revision

June

- June 18 Stakeholder meeting with 55 educational stakeholder groups
- June 30 Stakeholder meeting with 200 teachers across content areas

July

- Web survey to provide feedback on the proposed guiding principles – Over 700 responses received
- English Language Arts and Mathematics advisory committee meetings

August

- English Language Arts and Mathematics work group meetings consisting of teachers and supervisors at the elementary, middle, and high school level

September

- Common Core State Standards general framework released to State Education Agencies
- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard an update on the standards revision
- Mathematics advisory committee meeting
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Mathematics and Science Supervisors
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

October

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard an update on the standards revision
- Mathematics working group meeting
- Mathematics advisory committee meeting
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Ohio Urban Mathematics Leadership Network
- Ohio Department of Education staff participated in the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences forum on the Common Core State Standards

November

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard an update on the standards revision
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented at the Ohio Council of Teacher Mathematics Annual Conference
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
- Ohio Department of Education, with input from the English Language Arts and Mathematics work groups, provided feedback to the national workgroup regarding the development of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts

December

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard an update on the standards revision
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented to the Language Arts Supervisors Network
- English Language Arts working group meeting
- Ohio Department of Education, with input from the English Language Arts and Mathematics work groups, continued to provide feedback to the national workgroup regarding the development of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts

2010

January

- Ohio Department of Education, with input from the English Language Arts and Mathematics work groups, continued to provide feedback to the national workgroup regarding the development of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts

February

- The State Board of Education discussed revised standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented at the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference
- Ohio Department of Education, with input from the English Language Arts and Mathematics work groups, continued to provide feedback to the national workgroup regarding the development of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Ohio Department of Education staff solicited feedback via conference calls from the Mathematics and English Language Arts Advisory Committees and Working Groups regarding the development of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts

March

- First public draft of Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts are released
- The State Board of Education heard an update on the standards revision
- March 22-26 Ohio is the first state to hold regional public awareness and input meetings. Five regional meetings were held with more than 500 people in attendance

- Ohio Department of Education staff reviewed and provided feedback on the March public release draft of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Ohio Department of Education staff met with Mathematics and English Language Arts Advisory Committees and Working Groups to solicit feedback on the March public release draft of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Midwinter Conference
- Ohio Department of Education staff presented at the Ohio Council of Teacher of English Language Arts Annual Conference

April

- The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee heard an update on the standards revision

May

- May 10 The State Board of Education's Achievement Committee approved resolutions of intent to adopt the academic content standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
- May 11 The State Board of Education heard a presentation on the academic content standards revision.
- May 11 The Ohio Department of Education appeared before the House and Senate Education Committees to present the new standards.

June

- The State Board of Education adopted new standards unanimously

October

- Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) newsletter-New Learning standards article

2011

January

- Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) newsletter-New Learning standards article

March

- Regional meetings were held across the state on the new learning standards
- Ohio Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Directors (OASCD) conference
- Ohio Confederation of Teachers – Spring Conference

April

- Regional meetings were held across the state on the new learning standards

May

- Regional meetings were held across the state on the new learning standards

August

- Presented at Buckeye Association of School Administrators Regional Meetings in Logan, Bowling Green, Cleveland and Cincinnati

September

- Ohio Council of Teacher of Mathematics Board (OCTM) meeting
- Special Education Leadership (SEL) Conference
- Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (OCTELA) newsletter-New Learning standards article

October

- Presented at the Buckeye Association of School Administrators Fall Conference
- OCTM Annual conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards
- Ohio Mathematics Educator Leadership Council (OMELC) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.
- Ohio Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Directors (OASCD) conference

November

- Presented at the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference

2012**January**

- Presentation for the Springfield Rotary
- Presentation at the Cleveland City Club
- Presentation for the Zanesville Rotary
- Ohio Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Directors (OASCD) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.

February

- Presentation for the Tiffin Rotary
- Presentation for the Athens Rotary
- Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (OCTELA) Winter- newsletter-New Learning standards article

March

- Presentation for the West Chester Chamber of Commerce
- Presentation for the Marion County Rotary

April

- Presentation for the Toledo Rotary
- Presentation for the Newark Rotary
- Presentation for the Cincinnati Rotary
- Presentation for the Union County Rotary
- Presentation for the Findlay Rotary
- Presentation for the Upper Arlington Rotary
- Ohio Mathematics Educator Leadership Council (OMELC) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.

May

- Participated in the Fordham Common Core Town Hall

October

- Regional meetings were held across the state on the new learning standards and instructional shifts
- OCTM Annual conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards
- Ohio Mathematics Educator Leadership Council (OMELC) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.
- Ohio Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Directors (OASCD) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.

November

- Ohio Department of Education staff presented on the new learning standards at Ohio's Annual Statewide Education Conference
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) Conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.

2013

March

- Ohio Department of Education staff presented on the new learning standards at the Connecting the Dots Statewide Conference
- Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts- Spring Conference New Learning Standards Theme

April

- Regional meetings were held across the state on the new learning standards and instructional design
- Ohio Mathematics Educator Leadership Council (OMELC) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards

June

- Ohio Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Directors (OASCD) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards

October

- Ohio Department of Education staff presented on the new learning standards at Ohio's Annual Statewide Education Conference
- Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards
- Ohio Mathematics Educator Leadership Council (OMELC) conference hosted sessions on the new learning standards.