

New learning standards proposed

Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria recently presented proposed changes to Ohio's science, financial literacy and social studies learning standards to members of the House and Senate education committees.

Current science standards require only an understanding of cell biology. Based on stakeholder feedback, human biology is incorporated into the new standards – an important change, DeMaria said, as the medical field continues to grow.

Financial literacy standards have also been created for students in grades K-6 based on stakeholder feedback that the topic should be taught earlier than seventh grade, as is the current practice.

DeMaria told legislators that the process of revising standards began January 2017 with advisory committee review and feedback on current standards. Work groups then began the three-month process of revising existing standards based on the advisory committee's recommendations. The process is now scheduled to occur about every five years.

The proposed standards will next be shared with the State Board of Education. Once accepted, the Ohio Department of Education will create model curriculum for implementation in the 2018-2019 school year, with revised state assessments the following academic year.

The General Assembly has reviewed new model curricula for the state's English and math standards, which were adopted by the State Board last year. The changes to Common Core – rebranded as Ohio's Learning Standards – were also made based on teacher input.

The new standards will be incorporated into teaching throughout 2018 with state assessment updates slated for completion in 2019.