

K-12 Academic Standards Development Process

The Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards are the statewide expectations for student learning in public schools. The standards supplemented by benchmarks identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area by the end of a grade level or grade band. Minnesota’s academic standards are reviewed and revised on a 10-year cycle. One content area of academic standards is reviewed and revised each year based on a schedule approved by the Minnesota legislature.

School districts and charter schools determine how their students will meet the standards and benchmarks by developing courses and curriculum and choosing teaching methods. Local assessments are used to determine if students are meeting the standards and benchmarks.

● **Creating a Standards Committee**

Anyone may apply to serve on a standards review committee. The committee must have representation from the following groups: parents, licensed teachers who teach the content, principals, higher education faculty in the content area, school boards, the business community and the Tribal Nations Education Council (TNEC). The commissioner chooses 25-45 people from the pool of applicants and posts the roster on the specific academic standards content area webpages.

● **Committee Begins Review**

The committee examines educational research in the content area, studies standards from other states and national organizations, and seeks input from content and standards experts as it reviews and revises the standards. As they review and gain more information, the committee will continually revise, adjust and refine the standards. The committee’s first draft of revised standards is an initial draft which focuses on the standards and changes will be made in each subsequent draft. The second draft revisions focus on the standards and the supplemental benchmarks. Benchmarks will not include examples. The committee may provide language for examples to support future implementation.

● **Collecting Public Comments**

The Standards Committee collects public input through online comments, meetings with stakeholder groups and town hall meetings. Comments are reviewed and help inform future drafts.

This phase may repeat, depending on the needs assessed by the Standards Committee.

● **Working with Expert Reviewers**

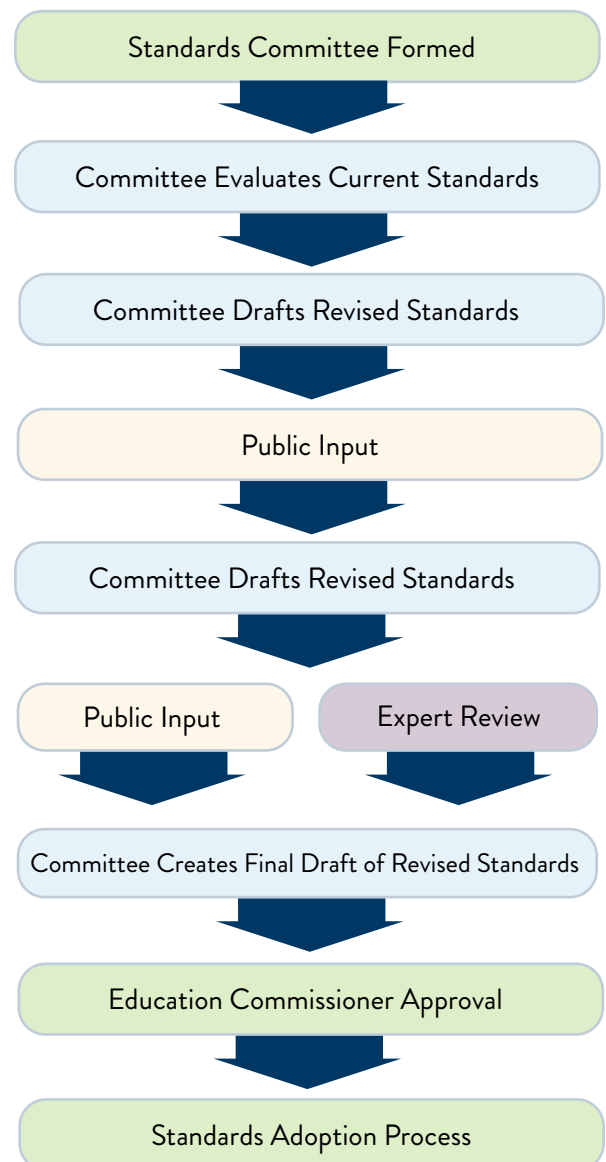
Expert reviewers analyze the revised standards and provide feedback to the committee. Reviewers are people or groups who have been nationally recognized for their expertise in K-12 standards and/or their knowledge of special issues related to K-12 standards in the content area.

● **Committee Submits Final Draft to Commissioner**

The final draft of the revised standards is the committee’s recommendation to the Education Commissioner. The full committee has concluded its review and revision work.

● **Standards Adoption Process**

Once the Education Commissioner reviews and approves of the revised standards then begins the 11-24 month process of adopting the standards into administrative rule, which includes an opportunity for public input.



Learn more about [Minnesota’s K-12 Academic Standards](#). Read [Frequently Asked Questions about Minnesota’s K-12 Academic Standards](#).