

From: Leska, Scott
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 7:19 PM
Subject: Arizona Academic Standards Adoption

Hello fellow Amphitheater Constituents:

As some of you may know, I am the Chairman of the Arizona Academic Standards Development Committee. In March of this year, Arizona's Governor, Doug Ducey, requested the establishment of a committee to review and replace the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards through the Arizona Board of Education. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqD15Se3Yas>). This committee is comprised of 17 members consisting of teachers, university/college professors, elected school board members, parents, school administrators, business owners, AZ Board of Education members, and our State Superintendent of Public Education, Diane Douglas.

In our last meeting, the committee established two sub-committees. These sub-committees will dive into the details of both the Mathematics and English Language Arts standards by grade level. As part of the process, we will be soliciting input from you. We want to know how the current standards are affecting you, your family, but most of all... your student. We need to know what is not working, and what needs to be replaced, changed, or reinforced.

The Arizona Board of Education has developed a web site Parent Portal for your convenience and access. It has been activated for you to make comments on the State's currently approved Common Core based English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics standards. In Arizona, these Common Core standards are named the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards.

Your comments are crucial to ensure that your voice is counted. This committee wants to ensure that the end result will become what our Governor has stated, "Arizona Standards that are written by Arizonans which are 'high quality' and that the rest of the Nation will look up to."

The comment period is open until October 22nd.

So, in addition to your comments, I need you to spread this Parent Portal far-and-wide to all of your groups of influence. Please post this on social media, Parent/Teacher Organizations in your school, in legislative district meetings that you attend, in your local clubs and social meetings, or wherever you feel you can get this word out. We want Arizona to be successful in this endeavor.

Here is the Parent Portal: <https://k12standards.az.gov/>

Select the "Read the Standards" link to read over the standards (<https://k12standards.az.gov/read-standards>). I have also attached a copy for your information as well. Then, click on the link "Comment on the Standards" (<https://k12standards.az.gov/comment-standards>) to submit your comments. We hope to have the public meeting schedule posted soon.

Again, you have until October 22nd to make comments. We know many of us have Fall Break plans in October and may be out of town during this comment process. I have been working with the Governor's office and the Board of Education to have this window extended, but there are no guarantees it will be extended. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sleska@amphi.com.

Best regards,
Scott Leska

Board Member,
Amphitheater School District #10

Chairman,
Arizona Standards Development Committee