

## Testimony on the Academic Standards Review Committees

Sunset Review Committee

Senator Kris Jordan, Chair

April 12, 2016

Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee, I am Jessica Voltolini, director of the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs at the Ohio Department of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to present you with information regarding the Academic Standards Review Committees.

House Bill 487 of the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly established four committees to review the academic content standards and state assessments in the core subject areas of English language arts, math, science and social studies. The current academic standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, were adopted in 2010 by the State Board of Education and are designed to promote college and career readiness. Each review committee is responsible for ensuring that the learning standards in its subject area are grade-level appropriate, promote comprehension and improved student achievement, and reduce the need for remediation. The committees also must determine whether the state assessments meet the standards.

Each of the four committees generally consists of three Ohio residents who are experts in the designated subject area, a parent, a classroom teacher, the superintendent of public instruction and the chancellor of Higher Education. The committees met regularly beginning in January 2015 to complete the standards reviews and summarized their findings with respect to the standards this past January. An update was provided to the State Board at its February meeting. When test results are received for the 2015-2016 school year, the committees will reconvene and continue their reviews of the state assessments. One full-time Ohio Department of Education employee serves as lead contact and provides support for all four committees, with other department staff lending subject-area expertise, technology assistance and administrative support.

The committees' feedback on the learning standards is a resource for the department and the State Board of Education in maintaining standards that reflect the essential skills and knowledge students need to be well prepared for college and the workforce. Also, with the recent changes in Ohio's assessments, committee members can provide information to help ensure that the tests are aligned with the standards to form a cohesive system.

We respectfully recommend that the Academic Standards Review Committees be continued at least through Fall 2016. After they review the state assessments this summer and fall, the committees will not be convened again unless an issues arises that requires their attention.

Thank you for your consideration. I'd be happy to address any questions that the committee may have.