

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
December 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Approval of Review Schedule and Status Report on the Sunshine State Standards Consistent with Section 1001.03(1), Florida Statutes

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

The Legislature requires an annual report on the status of the state's K-12 standards [§1001.03(1)]:

“The review schedule and an annual status report must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually not later than January 1.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sunshine State Standards were first approved by the State Board of Education in 1996 as a means of identifying academic expectations for student achievement in Florida. These original standards were written in seven subject areas and were divided into four separate grade clusters (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12).

As Florida moved toward greater accountability for student achievement at each grade level, the Sunshine State Standards were further defined with specific K-8 “Grade Level Expectations” added in 1999. However, as time went on, two realities appeared that magnified the need to increase the level of rigor in Florida’s academic standards.

On January 17, 2006, the State Board of Education adopted a six-year cycle that set forth a schedule for the regular review and revision of all K-12 content standards. However, this move went far beyond increasing the rigor of the standards and included the alignment of the new standards with assessments, instructional materials, professional development, and teacher licensure exams. With this comprehensive approach, the new standards and their higher levels of rigor will be fully integrated into the entire culture of K-12 instruction and assessment. This move sets the stage for higher levels of rigor and higher academic achievement for decades to come.

Supporting Documentation Included: Report: *Twenty-First Century Skills: Moving From the Sunshine State Standards to World Class Education Standards (under separate cover)*

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Cheri Pierson Yecke