

State Board of Education Student Performance Standards Committee

Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Call in Number: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 199 334 351#

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: January 6, 2025

Present

State Board Members (SBE): Kimberly Gleason, Co-Chair; Tammy Kolbe, Co-Chair, (joined at 3:51 p.m.); Grey Fearon, Mohamed Diop

Agency of Education (AOE): Ian Burfoot-Rochford, Roseanne Neddo, Lisa Helme, Martha Deiss, Maureen Gaidys

Others: Yoram, Shalom Alliance K12 Outreach, Rachel Feldman – Shalom Alliance, Ben, Corinna - Shalom Alliance, Amanda Garces, David Kerman.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to the Agenda

Gleason called the meeting to order at 3:49 p.m. and acknowledged members present: Gleason, Fearon, Diop. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approval of [December 16, 2024, Minutes](#)

Fearon moved to approve the [December 16, 2024 meeting minutes](#); Diop seconded. There was no discussion. Gleason called the vote. The motion carried.

Public to be Heard

Shalom Alliance tried to offer comment but had technical difficulties and said they would try again at the end of the meeting.

AOE Technical Review and Feedback on the IRIS Ethnic Studies Standards

Ian Burfoot-Rochford introduced Martha Deiss, Proficiency-Based Learning, Global Citizenship Coordinator, who shared [this AOE presentation of ethnic studies standards](#). She provided an overview, next steps and showed a roadmap between the Vermont Ethnic Studies Standards and College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

There was discussion on strong vs. ancillary connections definitions, some standards as written are content area agnostic, written descriptions of the knowledge that students should

have at different stages of their education, what in IRIS is verbatim or close that are in the other standards that exist, thinking through an interdisciplinary lens as a means to support implementation and a teacher doing curriculum planning, assessable standards, performance indicators where what students can do is identified, building a connected standard, connections are not to negate the need for ethnic studies standards, providing the indicators and next steps, teachers are doing this work but need more intentionality, Act 1 bringing these standards into the social justice lens, knowledge and skills transcend any particular content area, clarity on the knowledge and skills that are specific to social equity that can be met, uniqueness of standards, learning targets that are grade level specific, social-emotional learning (SEL) work through this same lens with competencies, interdisciplinary, requires extra training and support, other states tacking on ethnic studies standards to the social studies curriculum (Minnesota), and standards vs. framework.

Deiss spoke about other states - Minnesota - added ethnic studies to social studies - Oregon, Washington, Colorado, New York. Alaska, Rhode Island California - include equity framework at school level; [culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#); some states make their own standards; using a framework to make changes to their standards for implementation; and C3 is a framework, but Vermont adopted as standards.

Committee Discussion

There was discussion on specific recommendations that would be better able to be assessed, a lot to still learn about this work, what gets us to resolving or improving upon the materials towards implementation, challenges with planning for the future when standard adoption is pending, coordination and scale, whether AOE are the best people to deliver professional development (PD) to educators, funding to support PD and implementation, PD is key, understanding the trajectory of work is helpful, AOE to provide information on what other states are doing, and interdisciplinary standards (social emotional learning).

Discussion continued on needing a conversation on next steps, drafting of some performance indicators that could inform learners, historically having indicators incorporated in the standards, competencies considered to be indicators or not, cleaning up vocabulary, SBE can only address standards, process and competencies, creating language, committee needs to decide how it wants to proceed, and other states incorporating ethnic studies into social studies standards.

Next steps: Deiss will share appendices/information from other states and the committee should think about what questions they want to tackle and what information is needed prior to having a full Board discussion on this. Example: interdisciplinary standards, agreement on definition of key terms (standard, competency, pedagogy, curriculum, role of learning objectives, indicators), and using definitions from the AOE website. There was discussion on C3, adopting interdisciplinary standards in this area, where in this process will we need to hear what is being learned in the field, input from curriculum directors, and sharing the working documents to invite additional feedback.

AOE will provide resources from other states and a draft of definitions already in use; Gleason and Kolbe will reach out to curriculum coordinators about participation in the next meeting.

Future Agenda Planning

The next meeting falls on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; other options for a meeting were discussed. The Committee will meet next on Wednesday, January 22 at 5:45 p.m. February 17 is Presidents Day; other dates were discussed. The February 17 meeting will be moved to Monday, February 10 at 5:45 p.m.

Public to be Heard

Rachel Feldman, Shalom Alliance Community Organizer – asked if the Committee believed that Jews are an ethnic group and if they believe that excluding Jews from ethnic studies groups violates the intent of Act 1.

Corinna Dodson, Shalom Alliance K-12 Outreach Coordinator – thanked the committee and shared [this public comment](#) that referenced [a letter introducing the Shalom Alliance](#). The Shalom Alliance would like to share in future conversations.

Amanda Garces – shared that Washington State has a good example; she is hoping that Act 1 Working Group members can present to the Committee at an upcoming meeting; she thanked the Committee.

Ben Novogroski – asked if [Shalom Alliance's letter](#) was received and if this would be incorporated into the Committee's work going forward and asked for the Committee's response to this letter at a future meeting.

Gleason reminded members that the next meeting is January 22, 2025.

Adjourn

Diop moved to adjourn; Kolbe seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.