

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Statutory Authority: 14 Delaware Code, Section 122(d) (14 **Del.C.** §122(d))
14 **DE Admin. Code** 502

FINAL

REGULATORY IMPLEMENTING ORDER

502 Alignment of Local School District Curricula to the State Content Standards

I. Summary of the Evidence and Information Submitted

The Secretary of Education intends to amend 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502 Section 6.0 in order to clarify the descriptions of the categories of evidence of alignment to the state content standards that are required for submission to the Department of Education and to change the grade cluster configuration. The changes have been made as a result of a pilot study involving unofficial review of curriculum evidence from a small number of districts.

Notice of the proposed regulation was published in the *News Journal* and the *Delaware State News* on Thursday January 18, 2007, in the form hereto attached as Exhibit "A". Comments were received from Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Children and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities. The Councils asked why there was no reference to the charter schools in this regulation requiring curriculum alignment with the content standards. Charter schools are required to align their curriculum with the state content standards in the Charter School regulation 14 **DE Admin. Code** 275.4.3.1.

II. Findings of Facts

The Secretary finds that it is appropriate to amend 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502 Section 6.0 in order to clarify the descriptions of the categories of evidence of alignment to the state content standards that are required for submission to the Department of Education and to change the grade cluster configuration. The changes have been made as a result of a pilot study involving unofficial review of curriculum evidence from a small number of districts.

III. Decision to Amend the Regulation

For the foregoing reasons, the Secretary concludes that it is appropriate to amend 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502. Therefore, pursuant to 14 **Del.C.** §122 (6), 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502 attached hereto as Exhibit "B" is hereby amended. Pursuant to the provision of 14 **Del.C.** §122(e), 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502 hereby amended shall be in effect for a period of five years from the effective date of this order as set forth in Section V. below.

IV. Text and Citation

The text of 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502 amended hereby shall be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "B", and said regulation shall be cited as 14 **DE Admin. Code** 502 in the Administrative Code of Regulations for the Department of Education.

V. Effective Date of Order

The actions hereinabove referred to were taken by the Secretary pursuant to 14 **Del.C.** §122 on March 7, 2007. The effective date of this Order shall be ten (10) days from the date this Order is published in the *Delaware Register of Regulations*.

IT IS SO ORDERED the 7th day of March 2007.

502 Alignment of Local School District Curricula to the State Content Standards

1.0 Purpose

[1.1] The purpose of this regulation is to provide a process through which all Delaware school districts demonstrate the alignment of their local curricula with the State Content Standards in the content areas specified in the 14 **DE Admin. Code** 501.

2.0 Definitions

“Alignment Index” means a correlational measure of alignment between the Survey of Enacted Curriculum in a specific content area and the state standards used for comparison. The Wisconsin Center for Educational Research automatically calculates and reports the alignment index to schools and districts that use the surveys.

“Content Map” means a graphic depiction of local curriculum alignment automatically reported to schools and districts as part of the analysis of teacher survey data by the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research.

“Department” means the Delaware Department of Education.

“Grade Level Expectations” means the documents created and officially released by the Delaware Department of Education for English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies which detail student learning objectives in each content area for kindergarten through grade twelve.

“Scope and Sequence” means a curriculum plan, usually in chart form, with a range of instructional objectives and skills organized according to the successive levels at which they are taught.

“Statewide Recommended Curriculum Frameworks” means the Delaware Recommended Curriculum documents comprised of Academic Content Standards, Clarifications and Grade Level Expectations posted to the Delaware Department of Education website.

“Survey of Enacted Curriculum (SEC)” means the alignment survey sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. The SEC is a teacher survey tool based on scientifically based research which yields detailed information about the alignment of classroom instruction to state academic standards and state assessments. The survey is available for English language arts, mathematics, and science at the present time. A survey for social studies is in development. An analysis of results by grade level, school and district is completed by the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research with formal reports provided to the participating schools and districts.

“Tile Chart” means a graphic depiction of local curriculum alignment automatically reported to schools and districts as part of the analysis of teacher survey data by the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research.

“Unit Summative Assessment” means a performance measure of skills and knowledge mastered by students at the end of a unit as a result of classroom instruction. Examples of unit assessment measures include but are not limited to teacher constructed unit tests and commercially published measures such as those provided by curriculum publishers.

3.0 Alignment Requirement

[3.1] All school districts shall provide evidence to the Department that their school district curricula are aligned with the State Content Standards. As of 2006 State Content Standards exist in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, World Languages, Visual and Performing Arts, Health, Physical Education, Agriscience, Business Finance and Marketing Education, Technology Education, and the Family and Consumer Sciences. Content standards as developed by the Department in the future shall also be included under this section.

4.0 Use of the Statewide Recommended Curricula Frameworks

[4.1] School districts shall utilize the Statewide Recommended Curricula Frameworks including the State Content Standards, Content Area Clarifications and Grade Level Expectations as guides to the

development or revision of their local curricula, syllabi, and Scope and Sequence in the content areas listed in 3.0.

5.0 Documentation of Curriculum Alignment

5.1 Evidence of curriculum alignment to the State Content Standards shall be submitted to the Department no later than twelve (12) months following the official release by the Department of the Statewide Recommended Curriculum Frameworks in each content area.

5.2 Documentation of alignment of school district curriculum to the State Content Standards shall be submitted through evidence provided by the school districts on forms as developed and required by the Department.

5.3 Evidence of curriculum alignment submitted by school districts shall be subject to Department review during on site monitoring visits.

6.0 Criteria for the Evaluation of the Alignment

6.1 School districts shall be required to submit evidence of local curriculum alignment for each grade cluster (~~K-5, 6-8 and 9-12~~) K to 2, 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 from at least two of the permissible categories of evidence in 6.1.1 through 6.1.6. One of the two categories shall be the evidence described in 6.1.1. The second required category and any additional submitted evidence shall be selected by the district from categories 6.1.2 through 6.1.6. The school district may choose to vary the choice of the second category of evidence by grade cluster level. Evidence of alignment to each standard in a given content area shall be submitted.

6.1.1 Category 1 is a narrative describing the local curriculum alignment evidence and the extent to which it addresses all student subgroups. For English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, a required element of this narrative shall be an analysis of school district disaggregated student performance data on state assessments over the most recent three year period of available state assessment data.

6.1.2 Category 2 is the Grade level result (all teachers in at least one grade per grade cluster ~~K-5, 6-8 and 9-12~~) K to 2, 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 of the Survey of Enacted Curriculum for the content area under consideration. The SEC results shall demonstrate an Alignment Index of .50 or higher, and include a graphic summary including either a Tile Chart or Content Maps.

6.1.3 ~~Category 3 is one unit of study from each marking period with a corresponding Unit Summative Assessment, showing the academic standards addressed. Evidence shall be from grades 3, 5, 8 and 10.~~

6.1.4 ~~Category 4 is a description of the Scope and Sequence with a matrix of the primary academic standards addressed for each grade cluster.~~

6.1.5 ~~Category 5 is an external formal curriculum alignment report detailing a review of local instruction and documentation of standards alignment. The contractor's credentials shall be submitted.~~

6.1.6 ~~Category 6 is a grade cluster Scope and Sequence with a sample unit from each grade cluster, combined with student assessment results. Evidence of alignment of formative student progress to the State Content Standards shall be required. For districts using commercial student progress assessments, evidence shall include evidence of alignment of student progress assessments to the Delaware content standards.~~

6.1.3 Category 3 is three (3) units of study from a specific grade cluster, accompanied by the corresponding summative unit assessment and scoring rubric, and matrix table detailing applicable content standards, grade level expectations and course expectations for all students served in the grade cluster.

6.1.4 Category 4 is an external formal curriculum alignment report detailing a review of local instruction and documentation of standards alignment. The district is required to submit three (3) sample units and three (3) corresponding unit summative assessments, and a narrative detailing how all students served in the grade cluster receive standards aligned instruction. The district is required to submit the curriculum audit contractor's credentials.

6.1.5 Category 5 is a formative assessment benchmarking system with grade cluster Scope and Sequence, including three sample units from the grade cluster. The district is required to submit (1) a narrative detailing evidence of alignment of formative student assessment or assessments to the State Content Standards and (2) sample assessment items in the content area.

6.2 Required documentation for specific student subpopulations

6.2.1 As part of its submitted evidence, the district shall make detailed comments on the extent to which any modification or enhancement of the instructional program for specific subgroups such as students with disabilities, gifted students, English language learners or any other special population of students is aligned to the State Content Standards in the content area where there have been modifications or enhancements.

7.0 Participation of Building Level Staff

[7.1] All school districts shall describe and document to the Department the method and the level of involvement in the alignment process by their building administrators, teachers and specialists.

8.0 Subsequent Review of Alignment

[8.1] Each district shall resubmit evidence of alignment with the State Content Standards on forms developed and required by the Department between three and five years from the initial approval and on a recurring cycle of three to five years as determined by the Department. Further provided, the district shall be required to present evidence of curriculum alignment if there are major changes to a content area in the approved curricula. The district shall only be required to submit evidence of curriculum alignment in the affected content area.

10 DE Reg. 344 (8/1/06)

10 DE Reg. 1586 (04/01/07) (Final)