

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
ROBERT W. RUNCIE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DATE: February 3, 2020

TO: Instructional Personnel

FROM: Robert W. Runcie
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FLORIDA ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

This correspondence provides an update on the announced revisions to Florida's academic standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

I want to express congratulations and gratitude to each of you for the continued academic progress that our students are making due to your efforts. Since Florida introduced the Florida Standards Assessments in 2015, we have increased the literacy rates of our primary readers, increased the percentage of third-graders eligible for promotion based on the state's criteria, and raised graduation rates to an all-time high. This increased achievement has occurred while simultaneously we decreased disparities in achievement rates between demographic sub-groups of ethnicity, disability, and primary home language. Our efforts are both improving the level of student achievement and improving equity. Student achievement in Broward has continuously improved since the State of Florida increased expectations with adoption of the current Florida Standards. This improvement is because of your dedicated professionalism to our collective commitment that the BCPS curriculum is richer, deeper, and more expansive than the standards establish as minimal expectations.

On January 31, 2019, Governor DeSantis issued [Executive Order 19-32](#), which initiated a revision process to the State of Florida's academic standards. On January 24, 2020, Governor DeSantis and Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran [announced that this process has resulted](#) in proposed new academic standards for [English Language Arts](#) and [Mathematics](#) entitled Florida Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) standards.

The BCPS Office of Academics (OoA) has been preparing for transitions which will occur as a result of the announcement of the B.E.S.T. standards. A calendar is attached with this memo that provides anticipated dates for events associated with the adoption of the B.E.S.T. standards, resulting in curriculum revisions, professional learning, instructional materials adoption, and assessment implementation. Further communication will be forthcoming as information becomes available.

Next steps for BCPS instructional staff:

- Continue to focus on your students' development. Students need your support for their academic development and for their emotional maturity and mental health.

The academic progress of our students is dependent on their comprehensive wellness.

- Continue to teach the BCPS curriculum using the provided instructional materials. The current standards, instructional materials, and FSAs remain in effect until at least August 2021. Great teaching enables students to maximize their learning and high levels of learning will be demonstrated on assessments. Thus, teaching minimizes test prep.
- Continue to expand your use of and develop your skills in the BCPS Learning Management System (Canvas) that provides access to curriculum and instructional materials. Our curriculum, instructional materials, and student level modifications will continue to be provided through the Learning Management System throughout the standards revision process.
- Continue to refine your craft through professional learning. Active participation in your professional learning community, participating in the opportunities through Seasons of Learning, and enrolling in courses through Learning Across Broward (LAB) will benefit you and your students.

The announcement of the proposed Florida B.E.S.T standards included information about changes to student graduation requirements, state testing, and the school accountability system, which will take effect in Spring 2023. Further information on these changes will be forthcoming upon final state statutory and regulatory approval.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for instructional staff to actively participate in the instructional materials adoption and curriculum refinement processes. It is strongly recommended that all grade level and department teams at the school level ensure they are represented on these committees.

I have enormous trust in the ability of our classroom teachers and school administrators. We will ensure that your voice, ideas and suggestions are part of any process to implement whatever standards the state proposes.

As always, thank you for your professionalism, your work ethic, and your passion for our students.

Attachment: Implementation Calendar of FL B.E.S.T. Standards

cc: School Board members
Senior Leadership Team
Directors, School Performance & Accountability

Implementation Calendar of B.E.S.T. Standards

DRAFT as of February 3, 2020

SY	Date	Statutory & DOE Actions	BCPS Actions
2019 - 2020	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative session scheduled to adjourn on March 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence teacher and administer recruitment for participation in curriculum revision, instructional materials adoption, and related committees
	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated State Board of Education approval of B.E.S.T. standards in ELA and Math on April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated SBBC workshop on new B.E.S.T. standards, BCPS curriculum revisions, instructional materials, assessments, student progression and graduation requirements
	April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FL DOE ELA Adoption process begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate ELA instructional materials selection per Policy 6308
	May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised course code directory and descriptions published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence curriculum revisions to address B.E.S.T. standards
2020 - 2021	June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Professional Learning on B.E.S.T. standards begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCPS will introduce training on B.E.S.T. standards into Seasons of Learning
	November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.E.S.T. standards math specifications and criteria published 	
	March 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated SBBC adoption of new ELA instructional materials
	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Adoption process for instructional materials begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate math instructional materials adoption per Policy 6308
	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New FL Civic Literacy Test in, or before, Grade Twelve required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of ELA curriculum revisions FL Civic Literacy Test required (Grade 12)
2021 - 2022	June 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Learning on ELA curriculum & instructional materials commences
	August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of B.E.S.T standards and newly adopted materials (ELA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of revised curriculum with newly adopted instructional materials in ELA
	March 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated SBBC adoption of new math instructional materials
	May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final administration of FSA ELA 3-10, FSA Math 3-8 & Geometry EOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of math curriculum revisions Final updates to Policy 6000.1 (Progression)
2021 - 2022	June 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Learning on revised math curriculum with newly adopted instructional materials commences
2022 - 2023	August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of B.E.S.T standards and newly adopted materials (Math) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of revised curriculum with instructional materials in math
	May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New B.E.S.T. ELA assessment New B.E.S.T. Math assessment SAT/ACT required for graduation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.E.S.T. ELA assessment administered B.E.S.T. Math assessment administered SAT/ACT required for graduation
2023 - 2024	July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New School and District Accountability System 	