



NJDOE News

Contact: Richard Vespucci, 609-292-1126
Michael Schneider, 973-868-1000
Sheila Bridgeforth, 973-802-6852

For Release: February 6, 2002

Department of Education Sets [Dates for Public Feedback of Draft Revised Core Curriculum Content Standards](#)

The New Jersey Department of Education is launching a series of public meetings to solicit feedback on the draft revised Core Curriculum Content Standards. The feedback sessions, which are being held in collaboration with New Jersey United for Higher School Standards, are designed to gather comment on draft standards that were made public in December. The Core Curriculum Content Standards are statements of expectation that describe what all students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from high school.

"We are eagerly awaiting comments about the revised draft standards," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "This is a critical phase in the standards development process. Giving the public opportunities to review and comment helps ensure that the standards reflect the expectations of parents, educators and representatives of business and industry throughout New Jersey."

The first public feedback session for all content areas is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Joseph D. Williams Theater, Liberty Science Center, Liberty State Park, in Jersey City. In all, six sessions will be held for all content areas. ([See attached list](#)) The meetings will provide guests with an overview of the draft standards and then allow participants to select a content area focus group where they will be invited to provide feedback. The content areas are language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, visual and performing arts, and comprehensive health and physical education. Also under review are the cross-content workplace readiness standards, which include technology education and the practical arts. The workplace readiness standards are designed to ensure that students develop competencies for achieving success in the world of work.

In addition to the six larger meetings, smaller separate feedback sessions will be held to address specific content areas. They will be listed on the Department of Education's web site:

www.state.nj.us/education

The Department of Education is conducting these feedback sessions in partnership with New Jersey United for Higher School Standards, a statewide alliance of more than 100 business, education and non-profit organizations dedicated to helping parents and education stakeholders hold informed discussions about New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards. New Jersey United's co-chairs are Arthur F. Ryan, chairman and CEO, Prudential Financial; General Alfred Cade, former chairman, Commission on Higher Education; and Edwina Lee, chair, Leadership for Educational Excellence.

"We are delighted to be partners with the Department of Education to host forums where parents, teachers, and community members have an opportunity to talk about important education issues," said Ryan. "These discussions will go a long way in helping us to shape educational policies that will help our children lead productive adult lives."

The revised standards are being mailed to all chief school administrators, colleges and universities, leading New Jersey businesses and all of the major educational organizations. They can also be reviewed on the Department of Education web site.

All feedback collected will be considered by the state content panels, a statewide advisory committee and the Department of Education. They will decide whether additional changes need to be made before the standards are formally presented to the State Board of Education later this year.

Formed in 1999, New Jersey United educates parents on New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards and the assessment system, provides information on the tools that can help all children reach higher standards, and works to build broad support for the continuous improvement of public education. The group also acts as an

advocate for the policies, resources, and programs that are necessary to provide a world-class, standards-based education for all New Jersey children. For more information, visit

www.newjerseyunited.org

New Jersey was one of seven states that developed state-level standards in 1996. The original standards have been evaluated independently by Achieve, Inc., an independent, bipartisan, nonprofit organization created by governors and corporate leaders to help states and the private sector raise standards and performance in America's schools, and by the Council of Chief State School Officers. Recommendations made in these evaluations were considered in developing the draft standards currently under review.