



Division of Academic Standards and Instructional Effectiveness

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Possible Amendment to Rules Governing K-12 Academic Standards in Science, *Minnesota Rules*, 3501.0960 and Repealer of *Minnesota Rules*, 3501.0910-3501.0955; Revisor's ID Number RD4600

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Department of Education requests comments on its possible amendment to and repeal of rules governing the K-12 academic standards in science. Minnesota has K-12 academic standards in several content areas, including science. Academic standards and the supporting benchmarks are important because they identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve by the end of a grade level. Standards also help define course credit requirements for graduation and serve as a guide for schools and districts for local curriculum adoption, development and improvement. Student mastery of the academic standards is generally measured through state and local assessments. For the content area of Science, students are assessed using the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCAs) in grades five, eight and at the high school level in biology.

The possible K-12 academic standards in science will replace the state's current K-12 academic standards in science. The existing K-12 academic standards in science were last revised in the 2008-2009 school year and adopted in 2010. The department is proposing rule amendments to the existing K-12 academic science standards to reflect changes in science knowledge and understanding about effective science education for all students. The department has formed a Science Standards Review Committee selected from a group of qualified applicants. This committee has assisted in drafting the proposed K-12 academic standards in science. The Science Standards Drafting Committee has proposed rule language that fits the needs of Minnesota's students and support the goals of Minnesota's science education community. One of the major changes to the proposed rules is the move from grade banded standards to anchor standards that apply to grades K-12. More information about the work of the committee and the guiding assumptions and foundations the committee used in drafting the proposed rules are available on the [department's academic standards in science webpage](#).

Persons Affected. The amendment to and repeal of the existing rules would likely affect science teachers, science curriculum specialists, students and parents.

Statutory Authority. *Minnesota Statutes*, section 120B.02, subdivision 1 and 120B.021, subdivision 3 requires the department to adopt rules for the content area of science and to review and revise these rules and the supporting benchmarks beginning in the 2018-19 academic year.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on these possible rules in writing until the Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt the Rules or the Notice of Hearing is published. The department will not publish a notice of intent to adopt the rules until more than 60 days have elapsed from the date of this request for comments.

Standards Language vs. Supporting and Related Benchmarks: Although the supporting benchmarks are reviewed and revised along with the academic standards, the benchmarks are not part of the formal rulemaking process and are not promulgated into rule. The department is requesting comments on the amended standards language which is the subject of this rulemaking proceeding and not the supporting and related benchmark language. Comments related to the supporting benchmarks will be accepted by the department, but they will not be considered as part of the formal rulemaking process.

Rules Drafts. The department has drafted the possible rules amendments. The proposed rule draft is available on the department's [academic standards in science rulemaking webpage](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/about/rule/rule/K12Sci/) (<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/about/rule/rule/K12Sci/>). You can also find the science academic standards rulemaking webpage by visiting the main MDE webpage (<https://education.mn.gov/mde/index.html>). Scroll down to the bottom of the main webpage. Under 'Quick Links' click on 'Legislation, Rulemaking and Reports.' On the left side of the page click on 'Rulemaking Docket' and then choose 'K-12 Science Academic Standards.'

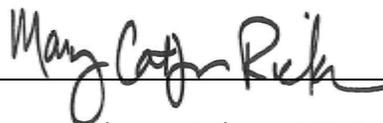
Agency Contact Person. Written comments, questions, and requests for more information on these possible rules should be directed to: Kerstin Forsythe Hahn at the Minnesota Department of Education at Kerstin.forsythe@state.mn.us or 1500 Highway 36, Roseville, MN 55113, or you can submit written comments via the [Office of Administrative Hearings Rulemaking eComments website](https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions) (<https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions>). You can also find the eComments webpage by visiting the main website for the [Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings](http://mn.gov/oah/) (<http://mn.gov/oah/>). Click on 'Forms & Filing' and choose 'Rulemaking eComments' from the drop down. Then click on 'eComments' and navigate to the discussion on the proposed K-12 Academic Standards in Science.

Alternative Format. Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or audio. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

NOTE: Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge if and when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The agency is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed. If you submitted comments during the development of the rules and you want to ensure that the Administrative Law Judge reviews the comments, you should resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

July 23, 2019

Dated: July 23, 2019



Mary Catherine Ricker, NBCT, Commissioner

Department of Education