



FOLLOW-UP REVIEW • REPORT NUMBER 23-13 • MARCH 2026

## Education Standards

Action planned but not yet taken to set schedule of subjects to review

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## Performance Audit Division

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### Why we did this review

This follow-up review was conducted to determine the extent to which the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) addressed recommendations from our December 2023 special examination (Report #23-13).

The special examination reviewed the purpose and frequency of reviewing education standards, the extent to which changes to content standards have been substantive, and the costs associated with changing education standards.

### About Education Standards

Education standards are learning goals for instruction created to establish expectations and improve student outcomes. Since 1985, Georgia has maintained content standards on four core (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) and six non-core content areas. Within each content area, standards are developed for each grade level or course, and they are incorporated by school systems into their local curricula.

Since 2010, Georgia has revised core subjects a total of eight times (Math and English Language Arts have each been revised three times). The revisions ranged from minor to substantial, and costs varied significantly based on the extent of changes.

## Education Standards

### Action planned but not yet taken to set schedule of subjects to review

#### What we found

Since our 2023 special examination, Georgia's four-year review cycle for core curriculum and competencies remains unchanged in statute. In addition, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has not yet established a schedule of subjects to be reviewed.

The original report found that the four-year cycle is shorter than that of the nine other states reviewed, which generally range from 6 to 10 years. According to GaDOE, the process of reviewing, revising, and implementing new content standards can exceed four years. A short review cycle is also seen as burdensome to some teachers, especially those who teach multiple subjects and would be impacted by frequent revisions to standards. We recommended that the General Assembly consider revising the four-year cycle, but no legislation has been passed as of February 2026.

The original report also found that GaDOE had not released a future review schedule, unlike at least six other states that publish multi-year schedules staggered by content area to avoid overlapping reviews. A consistent schedule could ease agency capacity constraints and allow for advanced planning by school systems, such as aligning textbook adoption cycles with standards reviews. GaDOE indicated it will draft a timeline for revisions after a new state school superintendent takes office in January 2027.

**Agency Response:** *GaDOE had no comments to add to the report.*

The following table summarizes the findings and recommendations in our 2023 report and actions taken to address them. A copy of the 2023 performance audit report 23-13 may be accessed here: [Education Standards](#).

## Education Standards Follow-Up Review, March 2026

<b>Status: 4 Findings</b>			
<b>Substantially Addressed: 0</b>	<b>Partially Addressed: 0</b>	<b>Not Addressed: 1</b>	<b>No Recommendation: 3</b>

<b>Finding 1:</b> Revisions to Math and ELA standards have been related to Common Core, while revisions of other content areas were driven by factors such as the length of time since last review.	
Original Recommendations	Action Taken
No recommendations	No recommendations
<b>Finding 2:</b> The General Assembly should consider revising Georgia’s four-year review cycle.	
<b>Not Addressed</b> – The General Assembly has not revised the four-year review cycle. In addition, GaDOE has not established a schedule of subjects to be reviewed but indicated plans to do so in 2027.	
Original Recommendations	Action Taken
2.1 The General Assembly should consider revising Georgia’s four-year review cycle. Options could include increasing the minimum number of years in the review cycle or eliminating the requirement and allowing the schedule to be set by GaDOE, the State Board of Education (SBOE), and the state school superintendent.	Not Implemented – The General Assembly has not passed legislation related to the four-year review cycle of core competencies.
2.2 If a minimum number of years remains in law, the General Assembly should define the beginning and end points of the cycle.	Not Implemented – The General Assembly has not passed legislation related to the four-year review cycle of core competencies, nor has it defined the beginning and end points of the cycle.
2.3 GaDOE and the state school superintendent should work with the SBOE to establish and publish a schedule of subjects to be reviewed over a set time period.	Not Implemented – GaDOE reported that agency divisions have met to discuss potential timelines and plan to draft a timeline that will be presented to the SBOE for review and approval. GaDOE indicated that this will not occur until after a new state school superintendent takes office in 2027.  GaDOE also noted it recently completed the implementation of the new math standards and is currently implementing the new English Language Arts standards.
<b>Finding 3:</b> Revisions to core content standards have ranged from minor to substantial.	
Original Recommendations	Action Taken
No recommendations	No recommendations
<b>Finding 4:</b> State and local costs for standards revisions vary significantly.	
Original Recommendations	Action Taken
No recommendations	No recommendations

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