



‘The Final 48’

How the State Board of Education makes scores of ill-considered changes to curriculum standards in the 48 hours before final adoption

Over the last three years, the State Board of Education has approved scores of changes to proposed Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards – across three major disciplines – **in the last 48 hours** before final votes to put those standards in place for nearly a decade. In deliberating over these amendments, board members considered **no formal input from teachers or scholars**, and public testimony was not allowed.

SOCIAL STUDIES (2010)

During the May 20-21 SBOE meetings – less than 48 hours prior to the final vote to approve new curriculum standards – board members proposed 118 amendments to social studies TEKS and approved 90 of them.

All amendments passed without testimony or advice from a single scholar or subject-area expert.

SCIENCE (2009)

During the March 26-27 SBOE meetings – less than 48 hours prior to final vote to approve new standards – board members proposed 75 amendments to science TEKS and approved 62 of them.

All amendments passed without testimony or advice from a single scholar or subject-area expert.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (2008)

At the May 23 SBOE meeting – the day of the board’s final vote to approve new standards – a faction of board members submitted a brand new, never-before seen substitute document for English/Language Arts TEKS, which was approved by a 9-6 vote of the board.

All amendments passed without testimony or advice from a single scholar or subject-area expert.

**Totals include content changes only. Procedural motions and votes not included in the amendment totals. All amendments available for review in SBOE meeting minutes online at the Texas Education Agency website, or from www.tfninsider.org.*