



Lancaster County Agriculture Council



July 6, 2021

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Over the last several months, the Lancaster County Agriculture Council has reviewed the proposed Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology and Engineering (Grades K-5) (Grades 6-12) and the Technology and Engineering Academic Standards (Grades K-5) (Grades 6-12) found in Appendix B-1 of the overall Standards document.

In comparing these Standards to the 2002 Standards that are already in existence, we make the following observations...

- Large portions of the 2002 document related to agriculture content (Section 4.4, Agriculture and Society) appear to be missing from the proposed document.
- Other content from 2002 in the Family and Consumer Sciences Standards (section 11.3 or Food Science and Nutrition) and the Standards for Health, Safety, and Physical Education (Standard 10.1 or Concepts of Health) which is very apropos to agriculture also appears to be missing.
- Without the content noted above, the proposed Standards (Grades K-5) seem particularly lacking in content in regard to meeting the need for a general understanding of agriculture and food in the early years.
- We notice no real demarcation in the remaining standards for when agriculture and food content shifts from the general knowledge that creates healthy people, wise consumers, and folks who are environmentally-aware - to more specific knowledge that would be required of people preparing for agriculture and food career pathways.
- There is no attempt to incorporate by footnote or other reference the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Standards that are a reference point for many agriculture educators.

Therefore, the Council recommends: (1) that the mission standards from 2002 be brought into the deliberations of the Committees that will be reviewing these Comments; (2) that additional work be done on the proposed K-5 standards which need to have the missing content included and a discussion of what it means for elementary students; (3) that there should be meaningful conversation about where general education ends and more vocational and technical teaching begins; and (4) that agriculture teachers have a chance to speak more clearly to the Committees about how they could use the AFNR standards along with the proposed standards.

We are determined that agriculture and food content be included in the proposed standards even though the Next Generation Science Standards may ignore them. We are happy to share further or meet with anyone at any time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Henry
Board Chair

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