



## **Revision Process Considerations**

### **Condensing within Current Code and Policy**

#### 1. Compress writing

**Opportunity:** Step 6 dictates that the Writing Committee organization and standards drafting takes place over an exhausting 9-month period (Months 6 through 14).

**Solution:** Transition to an 8-week summer intensive or similar condensed model with multi-day, back-to-back sessions.

**Potential Pitfall:** Not all writers or staff can commit to a full summer. Intensive writing without breaks might not yield the best writing possible. We cannot guarantee that writing takes place in the summer.

#### 2. Overlap work

**Opportunity:** Currently, the process is entirely linear. Staff waits until Month 6 to organize the Writing Committee, well after the Review Committee has finished its job.

**Solution:** The Writing Committee is organized according to an internal standard operating procedure, not bound by the statutory 30-day legislative notification period required for the Review Committee. Staff can begin accepting applications, vetting, and organizing the Writing Committee concurrently during Months 1 and 2. By the time the Board approves the recommendations in Month 5, the Writing Committee is already trained and ready to begin drafting on day one.

**Potential Pitfall:** The Review Committee may not return a need to open the standards for a full revision so composing the committee early might not be warranted.

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### 3. Board Member Engagement

**Opportunity:** The Board has two separate 30-day windows to submit individual feedback and amendments, which the writing committee must then categorize and respond to with rationales.

**Solution:** Without bypassing the Board's right to amend, we can assign one or two Board Members to act as "liaisons" who observe the Writing Committee during Step 6. Having Board perspective in the room during the drafting phase ensures their concerns are addressed in real-time, drastically reducing the volume of "substantial in nature" amendments.

## Condensing with a Change to Code or Policy

### 1. Single Committee Model

**Opportunity:** Utah law currently dictates a sequential, bifurcated process. The Standards Review Committee (SRC) makes recommendations, the Board votes on them, and *then* staff organizes a separate Writing Committee. This creates delay for the earliest stages of the process.

**Solution:** States like Connecticut and North Carolina use a unified "Steering and Drafting" model.

**Code Change:** Amend 53E-4-203 to replace the two separate committees with a single Standards Revision Task Force.

**Practice Change:** This Task Force would consist of a "Steering Sub-Committee" (parents, higher ed, and business leaders who set the vision) and "Drafting Sub-Committees" (the actual classroom educators). They work concurrently in the same room, at the same time, eliminating months of hand-offs.

### 2. Eliminate Waiting on Appointments

**Opportunity:** 53E-4-203 requires the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to each appoint five parents to the committee, giving them 30 days to

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do so. If they do not respond, then the Board Chair can appoint, but a month has passed before getting started.

**Solution:** In states like Louisiana and Rhode Island, the Department or Board of Education owns the entire recruitment process via a transparent, statewide public application portal.

**Code Change:** Amend 53E-4-203(2)(b) to remove the requirement for House and Senate leadership to appoint committee members.

**Practice Change:** Grant the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) the sole authority to select all parent, educator, and industry representatives through an open application process, ensuring geographic and demographic representation without waiting on legislative calendars. This works hand in hand with the suggestion to run multiple committees concurrently.

### 3. Compress Public Review Window

**Opportunity:** The current process requires a 90-day public review period. In the modern digital age, 90 days is unnecessarily long; it stalls the momentum of the writing committee and delays implementation.

**Solution:** Many states (including Alabama, Kansas, Maryland, and Nevada) use a 30-day to 45-day public comment window.

**Policy Change:** Amend the statute or Board Policy 3002 to reduce the mandated public review period from 90 days to 30 or 45 days.

**Practice Change:** Retain the requirement for three regional public hearings (including one virtual) but execute them within that tighter 30-45 day window.

### 4. Consider Amending Board Feedback Points

**Opportunity:** There are multiple, fragmented 30-day windows to submit individual

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feedback and amendments via email (Steps 7, 10, and 11). The 30-day window is only for feedback and does not reflect the full timeline to address comments and resubmit drafts.

**Solution:** States like Tennessee and Virginia use a standard "First Reading and Final Reading" model typical to our Board Committee and Final approval process.

**Process Change:** Eliminate or modify the Board feedback points by adding a Board member or members to be listening members to the writing process, allowing Board member feedback included in the public comment period, or other modifications to reduce the three comment periods.

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