

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Social Studies and Arts Standards Development Update

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.6453, 704 KAR 3:303

### **History/Background:**

*Existing Policy.* Senate Bill 1 (2009) required the revision of all content standards. To date, English, mathematics and science have all been revised and have been rolled out through Kentucky's system of networks. The next sets of standards coming to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for consideration at its October meeting will be social studies and arts.

### **Social Studies Development Update:**

The new Kentucky Core Academic Standards for Social Studies are being developed by Kentucky educators for Kentucky educators. Work has already begun on this development and has been progressing since late spring 2013. The initial standards revision and advisory team, composed of key stakeholders and experts from around the state, has brought this massive task to the point where development needed to be continued in smaller teams. Writing is taking place throughout the summer of 2014 across the state by teams of master educators. The new standards are being informed by several documents including the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies. The C3 Framework is not a set of standards, but rather designed to assist states in updating, revising, or reinventing their state social studies standards. An overview of the C3 Framework is included as Attachment A. The entire framework can be found at [C3 Framework](#). Other influential documents that are informing this work include the Global Competency Matrix (Attachment B), the Framework for 21st Century Learning (Attachment C), and [Kentucky's Core Academic Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies](#).

### **Arts Standards Development Update:**

The National Core Arts Standards were released to the public on June 4, 2014 via the opening of an interactive web site: [www.nationalartsstandards.org](http://www.nationalartsstandards.org). The work was guided by the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS), an organization representing all of the national arts education organizations (College Board, State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education) and other arts education organizations

such as Young Audiences and the Kennedy Center (Attachment D). Over 60 writers were recruited from across the country representing educators at various levels of arts education and arts education stakeholders. More information about the project, who participated, as well as a complete conceptual framework detailing the various aspects of the standards, can be found on the NCCAS home page at [www.nccas.wikispaces.com](http://www.nccas.wikispaces.com).

The standards were informed by a number of research studies conducted for this purpose by The College Board. Copies of those research reports are included as Attachment E. Standards were written for Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Model cornerstone assessments were written along with the standards. These assessments are performance-based and targeted for measuring student success toward achieving the standards. The assessments are intended to serve as models that teachers can use or as guides for helping them design their own assessments.

Kentucky educators participated in the process throughout the project. NCCAS hired Phil Shepherd, former Arts and Humanities Consultant and current Academic Core Branch Manager for KDE, to serve as the project director. Robyn Swanson of Western Kentucky University was selected as a writer. Over the course of the project, there were four public reviews of the standards and Kentucky educators provided a significant amount of feedback to writers on needed adjustments.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Revision of social studies and arts standards adheres to the expectations outlined in SB 1 (2009), which established the state's college and career readiness agenda for students in Kentucky schools. The standards compliment Kentucky Core Academic Standards in English/language arts, mathematics and science and result in more rigorous learning expectations for students K-12.

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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