

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** 704 KAR 8:060, Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies (Second Reading)

**Date:** February 2019

**Action Requested:**  Review  Action/Consent  Action/Discussion

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on adoption of the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies* to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 1 (2017) which calls for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to implement a process for reviewing and revising all academic standards and aligned assessments beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Educators have taught the state's current social studies standards in Kentucky classrooms since 2006. As the content standards are revised, they will be incorporated by reference into their own regulation.

### COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends the adoption of the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies* as incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:060.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 160.290

### BACKGROUND:

*Existing Policy:* KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451 and 158.6453. KRS 156.070(1) requires the KBE to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 160.290 authorizes local boards of education to provide for courses and other services for students consistent with the administrative regulations of the KBE. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the required academic standards for social studies, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards for use in Kentucky's common schools.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) began the review and revision process for current academic standards in social studies in January 2018. Standards outline what students are expected to know and do in each grade to successfully transition to the next level of learning, not how they are taught. The curriculum or methods and materials used to teach the standards is decided at the local level.

In addition to requiring the KDE to implement a process for reviewing all academic standards and aligned assessments beginning in the 2017-18 school year, SB 1 (2017) also required:

*The revisions to the content standards shall:*

1. *Focus on critical knowledge, skills, and capacities needed for success in the global economy;*
2. *Result in fewer but more in-depth standards to facilitate mastery learning;*
3. *Communicate expectations more clearly and concisely to teachers, parents, students, and citizens;*
4. *Be based on evidence-based research;*
5. *Consider international benchmarks; and*
6. *Ensure that the standards are aligned from elementary to high school to postsecondary education so that students can be successful at each education level.*

The current schedule calls for one or two content areas to be reviewed each year and every six years after that on a rotating basis. A process for reviewing and revising language arts and writing academic standards and assessments, mathematics academic standards and assessments, science academic standards and assessments, social studies academic standards and assessments was prescribed in SB 1 (2017). Therefore, this process was used to review and revise the social studies standards.

**Summary of Issue:** The Social Studies Advisory Panels (APs) and Review and Development Committees (RDCs) envisioned standards that would afford students an opportunity to provide social studies learning experiences that will prepare all K-12 students in Kentucky to be effective and involved members of society. Under this framework, Kentucky students actively will engage with the social studies concepts, ideas and practices needed to participate in and navigate the community, state, nation and world in which they live using multidimensional, complex reasoning. The standards, coupled with high quality curriculum and instruction, complement the diversity of students and how they learn, construct knowledge and acquire skills and concepts of the disciplines. As other content standards are revised, they will be incorporated by reference into their own regulation to increase the efficiency of the standards review and revision process.

Since the first reading of this board item, a few changes were made to the standards document. First, grade level overviews were added and include vocabulary highlights, progression snapshots, exploration of inquiry standards and cross disciplinary connections. In addition, disciplinary clarifications for grades K-8 were added to provide sample ideas of content and concepts to assist teachers with understanding the expectations of the standards. Based on feedback, the disciplinary clarifications were needed in order to provide clarity on the intent of the K-8 standards found within the document.

**Budget Impact:** State funds were used to develop these standards. The cost to review and revise the social studies standards has been \$72129.36 thus far. The cost of staff time (outside of their regularly assigned work) related to the facilitation of development and compilation/preparation of these standards has been \$15,355 thus far. Additional staff time will be impacted through implementation of the standards.

#### **GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:**

- APs consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members
- RDCs consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members

- Social studies focus groups
- Feedback from the public and the social studies community: 1,227 respondents (roughly 77.59 percent were teachers) for a total of 5,306 comments
- Focus groups conducted in December included representatives from Kentucky education organizations and stakeholders (representatives from the following organizations participated: the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), Kentucky World Language Association (KWLA), Center for Economic Education at Murray State University, Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC), Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC), McConnell Center for Civic Education and Engagement, Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE), Prichard Committee and Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA))

Focus groups conducted in December informed revisions by the APs and RDCs in order to provide more clarity throughout the standards document, especially in grades K-8. Additionally, the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) will review this regulation at its January 29, 2019 meeting. Feedback will be received prior to the February board meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner  
 Office of Standards, Assessment and Accountability  
 502-564-2256  
[rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov](mailto:rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov)




---

**Commissioner of Education**

Category: <input type="checkbox"/> District Innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Educators <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Community Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Family Supports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Interventions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coursework Completion <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting
--