

The background of the slide is split diagonally. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the front of one clearly visible. The bottom-right portion shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. There are several small desks and chairs arranged in the room.

Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies

Kentucky Board of Education
August 2026

Statute and Regulation

KRS 158.6453(2)

- Requires the Kentucky Department of Education to implement a process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards every six years.

704 KAR 8:060, Required academic standards for social studies

- This amended administrative regulation will adopt into law the revised “Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies.”

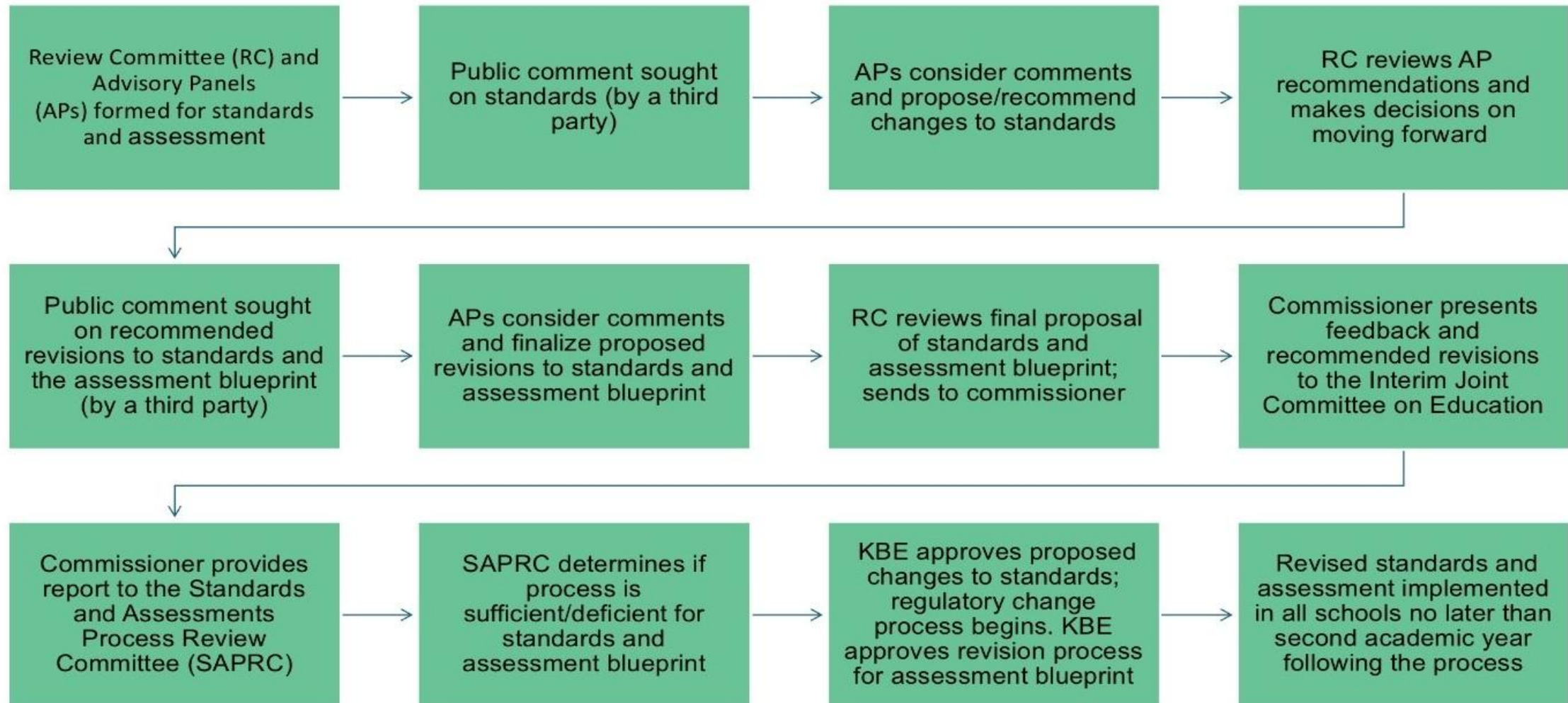
KRS 158.6453(2)(b)

Review of Academic Standards

“The revision 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.”

Standards and Assessment Review Process



Standards Process Review Timeline

- **February 2025:** Call for participation on standards committee opened
- **March 2025 - April 2025:** Current social studies standards opened for initial public comment/feedback
- **April 2025:** Advisory Panels (APs) and Review Committee (RC) met to review public feedback and recommend potential changes to be released for public comment
- **June 2025 - July 2025:** Recommended changes to social studies standards and Social Studies Assessment Blueprint released for second round of public comment/feedback
- **September 2025:** APs and RC review public feedback and finalize recommendations to draft standards
- **February 2026:** APs and RC reconvene to review public feedback and finalize recommendations
- **June 2026:** Recommendations and public feedback presented to the Interim Joint Committee on Education

Writers' Vision

- The writing team strives to develop vertically aligned standards that provide students with the opportunity to question, create and collaborate for a better future.
- Students engage with the social studies' disciplinary concepts and practices of civics, economics, geography and history.
- In kindergarten through high school, students interact with multiple perspectives and ask thoughtful questions that promote critical thinking and informed decision making.
- The standards emphasize evaluation of sources, respectful civil discourse and logical, effective communication as essential civic skills that support informed civic engagement.

Initial Public Comment Period

- Initial public comment period allowed respondents to provide feedback on the current *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies*.
- Nearly 400 total responses received during the initial public comment period from a variety of stakeholder groups, including:
 - Teachers and administrators;
 - Parents and guardians;
 - Business and community partners; and
 - Postsecondary education representatives.
- For each standard, respondents were asked to select “keep as-is” or “revise”:
 - 86% of K-5 standards approved “as-is”;
 - 97% of grades 6-8 standards approved “as-is”;
 - 93% of high school standards approved “as-is”.
- For each standard respondents selected to “revise,” they were prompted to give their reasoning, suggestions and/or comments.
- After receiving initial public feedback, standards flagged for review were considered for revision by the APs and RC.

Draft *KAS for Social Studies*

Revision Highlights

- Updated **standards writers' vision statement**
- Improved **document design colors, logos and fonts** for consistency with other disciplines and improved usability
- **Links to the Table of Contents** were added above the Specific Overview sections for each grade level for ease of document navigation.
- The **Inquiry Practice Definition for Questioning (Q)** was updated to clarify the meaning, intent and purpose of questioning referenced in the standards when engaging with each of the social studies disciplines
- **Grade Band Overview** for high school was updated to highlight the organization of the standards around the disciplines of civics, economics, geography and history
- Emphasis placed on the importance of **teaching the social studies disciplinary strands in unison** rather than in isolation

Second Public Comment Period

- The second public comment period allowed respondents to provide feedback on the revised *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies*.
- Over 175 respondents commented during the second public comment period from a variety of stakeholder groups, including:
 - Teachers and administrators;
 - Parents and guardians;
 - Business and community partners; and
 - Postsecondary education representatives.
- 94% of the standards were approved “as is.”
- The APs and RC reconvened to consider the remaining 6% of standards flagged for review and provided revisions, as needed, to complete the current draft *KAS for Social Studies*.

Standards and Clarification Statements

Civics Disciplinary Strand (example)

C: Civic and Political Institutions

HS.C.CP.1

Explain how the Constitution of the United States embodies the principles of rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances to promote general welfare.

The foundation of government in the United States is rooted in a variety of historical and philosophical ideas, including popular sovereignty and limited government. The negotiation, collaboration and compromise achieved at the Constitutional Convention led to the creation of a new constitution with more centralized authority. The Constitution of the United States enacted federalism, which designates shared powers between the federal government and the states. The Constitution of the United States designed separate, co-equal branches of government constrained through checks and balances, which helps limit the powers among the three branches of government.

Prepared Kentucky graduates in social studies use the tools, thinking and practices of civics, economics, geography and history to:



Civics

Understand fundamental values and principles of America's democratic republic.

Use civic mindedness to act as informed, engaged life-long participants.



Economics

Understand market interactions, the national economic and the global marketplace.

Use economic reasoning to make sound decisions and maximize well-being.



Geography

Understand how human activity and physical environments shape cultural, economic and social life.

Use geographic literacy to evaluate what happens in places, sustain resources and improve quality of life.



History

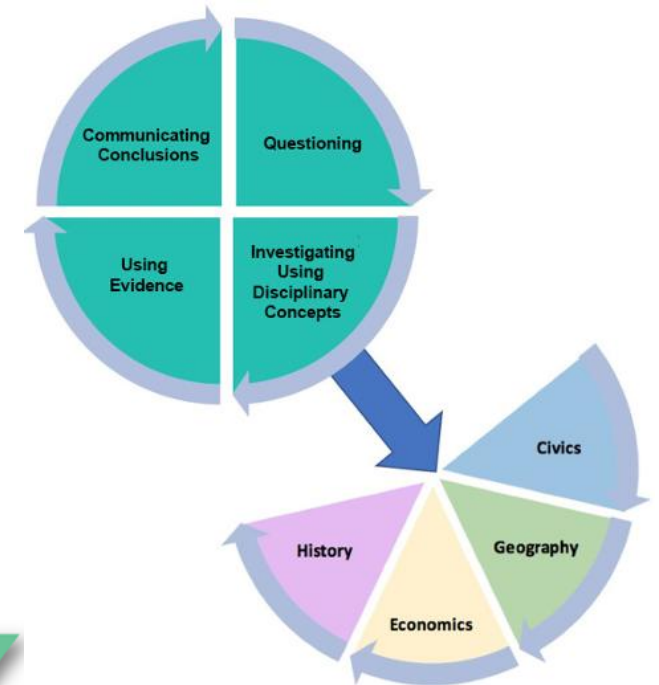
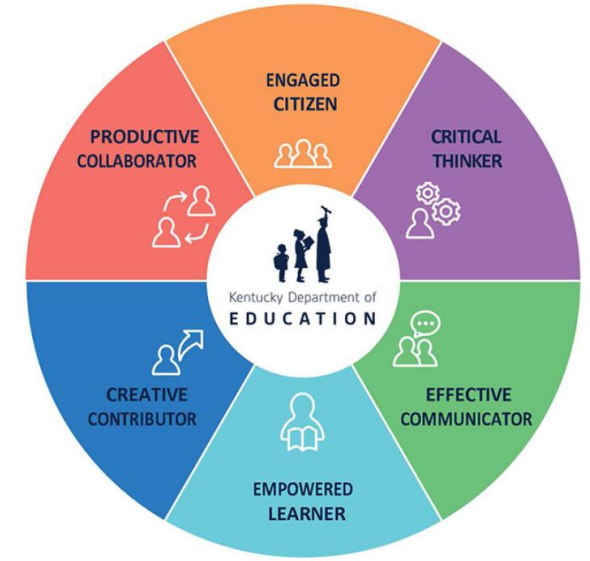
Understand America's past and what decisions of the past account for present circumstances.

Use historical thinking to analyze issues, be informed and interpret the world around them.



The *KAS* for Social Studies and the Portrait of a Learner

- **Engaged Citizen:** *Students use disciplinary knowledge and evidence to engage in civil discourse, evaluate multiple perspectives and take action to improve their communities.*
- **Critical Thinker:** *Students analyze sources, evaluate perspectives and use evidence to construct and revise claims, making informed decisions and developing new understanding.*
- **Effective Communicator:** *Students communicate evidence-based ideas through speaking, writing and multimedia, engaging various audiences respectfully and using disciplinary language clearly.*
- **Empowered Learner:** *Students generate questions, apply knowledge and evidence to real-world issues and refine their thinking over time, building independence and persistence as learners.*
- **Creative Contributor:** *Students use disciplinary knowledge and evidence to design and communicate innovative, meaningful solutions to real-world issues.*
- **Productive Collaborator:** *Students collaborate to investigate questions, analyze perspectives and use evidence to build shared understanding while actively listening and contributing to their communities.*



Questions?

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