

## Social Studies Standards Public Comments

### Social Studies Exhibit 1

**Date Submitted: October 22, 2014**  
**Joseph Royall-McKeown, Representing Self**

None at this time.

### Social Studies Exhibit 2

**Date Submitted: October 28, 2014**  
**Robert E. Wright, Higher Education**

As a professor of political economy at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, I find in my classes (which include general education courses as well as more specialized courses in history, economics, government, and business) students from South Dakota with a limited understanding of basic business, civics, economic, geographical, and historical concepts, skills, and content knowledge. Having reviewed the current and proposed standards, I can see why! For starters, US history should not be split into pre-Civil War for 8th graders and post-Civil War for 11th graders. Rather, 8th graders should come to have a general understanding of all of U.S. history, including chronology, and a basic introduction to primary source analysis. In 11th grade, students should again cover all of U.S. history but with less emphasis (just a refresher) on the chronology and basic terms and greater emphasis on the analysis of primary sources, along with a basic introduction to some major historiographical debates. The economics standards are a mess ... they do not appear to have been written by an economist. I suggest instead adopting/adapting the microeconomics and macroeconomics sections of the IB (international baccalaureate) programme (leaving off its international economics and development economics sections). That will ensure that our students are up to international standards on the two most important parts of the subject. (Students interested in business, policy, etc. can pick up the rest in college if they have a firm grounding in micro and macro principles.) I won't presume to critique the geography or civics standards but I would not be surprised if specialists found fault with them given what I have seen from my 3 children, all of whom are in middle or high schools in SF. Perhaps other IB subject guides can prove of help there as well.

### Social Studies Exhibit 3

**Date Submitted: November 3, 2014**  
**No Name Submitted, Representing Self.**

It would be more convenient if all sep, ccc, and dci info was presented on the same document or in order with the standards instead of having to search different locations

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### Social Studies Exhibit 4

**Date Submitted: November 10, 2014**

**Justin Clerxc, Standards workgroup committee member**

I really like the new standards that the workgroup created for two reasons. First – it marries the SD State Content Standards and the CCSS standards for with teachers and schools are held accountable. By combining the two not only are teachers able to easily find which standards apply to their lessons, but also will naturally meet both sets of standards by following the guidelines set forth by the committee. Secondly, I feel that the new standards improve both the vertical and horizontal alignment of the social studies curriculum I really like the new standards that the workgroup created for two reasons.

### Social Studies Exhibit 5

**Date Submitted: November 12, 2014**

**Charles Gritzner, Standards workgroup committee member**

Geography education has undergone tremendous change since the days its content was more a load on the student's memory, than a bright light in his or her mind. Fortunately, during recent decades, the rote memorization of mind-numbing facts has given way to conceptually-based teaching and learning. The draft of the state's Geography Standards reflects current national (rather than Federal) trends in geography curriculum, instructional materials, course content, teaching, and learning. They incorporate what most geography educators consider to be a "cutting edge" contemporary instructional framework based upon fundamental geographical concepts, tools, and methods. Yet while the guidelines establish instructional *goals*, they remain very flexible in terms of those guideposts that mark the pathway toward achieving their objectives. They afford school districts and individual educators considerable latitude in determining the specific content and teaching strategies employed in attaining the recommended educational goals. I believe that the proposed South Dakota Geography Standards reflect the very best strategies embodied in contemporary K-12 geography education.

Charles F. Gritzner, PhD  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography  
South Dakota State University

### Social Studies Exhibit 6

**Date Submitted: November 12, 2014**

**Erica Bell, Standards workgroup committee member**

I believe the committee went through a thorough process in selecting these standards. First we learned about recent research and developments in "national" standards in the social studies field. We then went through a collaborative process of determining how these standards applied to

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education in South Dakota. Throughout this process the writing process remained fair and balanced. I believe all sides and opinions were heard. In the end I think the document is much more relevant and rigorous to students' lives. If you have any further questions please contact me via email at [Erica.Bell@k12.sd.us](mailto:Erica.Bell@k12.sd.us)

### Social Studies Exhibit 7

**Date Submitted: November 12, 2014**

**Tim Woodson, Representing self.**

Referring to History. I just visited an Elem. school in the state and found the same problem in information we are teaching our children. The facts do not and have not ever supported America schools teaching that Christopher Columbus discovered the 'American' Continent. We need to teach correct/factual information to our children. I will be glad to provide all information on this topic. Let's stop this. He doesn't even deserve any Holiday. I will be a teacher in two years, and will do my best to spark this change in America. v/r Tim Woodson 3039067537

### Social Studies Exhibit 8

**Date Submitted: November 13, 2014**

**JoAnne Bohl, Standards workgroup committee member**

I would like to thank the South Dakota Department of Education for the opportunity to be part of the South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards Review Team. It was an honor to work with dedicated and passionate Social Studies teachers to help develop these standards for our content area. I think the proposed content standards are an excellent end product of what 21st Century Social Studies education should look like for the state of South Dakota. This was truly a collaborative process that used a research based top-down approach in design, always targeting the following question: "When a student leaves our K-12 school system, what do we want them to have mastered regarding their social studies education and the skills needed to empower them as citizens of the 21st Century?" These proposed standards strike a balance between empowering students with questioning, research, and communication skills while protecting the integrity of basic social studies content which is fundamental for citizenship in a constitutional democracy. I endorse the adoption of the proposed Social Studies Content Standards for the state of South Dakota!

JoAnne Bohl!  
West Central High School!  
Hartford, South Dakota!  
Years Teaching Social Studies: 26!

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### Social Studies Exhibit 9

**Date Submitted: November 13, 2014**

**Laura Plowman, Standards workgroup committee member**

Sam,

Feel free to read the following statement at the public hearings. I will not be attending the Pierre meeting.

This message is from Laura Plowman, a social studies teacher at Brookings High School. I was part of the Social Studies Standards workgroup this summer and am very pleased with the group and the standards it developed.

A note on our process: We met over eight days this summer to review our current standards, look at other state standards documents as well as national standards, and devise the current recommended standards. A significant change worth noting regarding our proposed standards is the fact that they are integrating something called the "College, Career, and Civic Life Framework," or C3 Framework. The framework is a skills-based framework that, as their site says, has objectives to "enhance the rigor of the social studies disciplines (and) build critical thinking, problem solving, and participatory skills to become engaged citizens." Additionally, the C3 Framework was developed to incorporate social studies-relevant Common Core standards, thus freeing Social Studies teachers to work with just one standards document that meets multiple stakeholder expectations. We selected C3 skills and melded those with agreed-upon content to create our current proposed standards.

During our summer meetings, my work was primarily in the area of high school history. I appreciate the new World History standards. Currently, World History has only two, very broad standards and the "enabling skills" portion reflects a very Western focus on World History. I feel these proposed standards incorporate needed skills and critical thinking expectations and additionally enable teachers to broaden the World History focus beyond just that of modern Western Civilizations course if they wish to do so.

You may be aware that there was ongoing discussion regarding the scope of the US History standards. The teachers working on these standards felt very passionate about providing our students with an excellent foundational knowledge of US History. We soon learned in our discussions that current US History courses around the state vary in the scope of this course. The state currently offers three US History courses: Comprehensive US History (which may include Pre-Columbian history), Early US History (which goes until about 1870), and Modern US History (which begins about 1870). Some schools offer two semesters of Modern US History, while others, such as my own, offer a comprehensive course.

Current US History Standards only contain content from 1870s to the present. A good deal of discussion went into whether our proposed US History standards should include content relevant to our offered Comprehensive and Early US History courses in order that these courses, too, be guided by standards. The concern was, however, that additional US history standards require schools to change curriculum and course offerings and see extra costs. It was decided to include content standards for the period from 1770 to 1870 and that the standards document would designate which content standards are relevant to which specific state-approved courses. I feel this

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is a beneficial solution and provides standards for all US History courses, whether comprehensive or Modern US, offered around the state.

I recommend the adoption of the proposed Social Studies Standards.

Sincerely,

Laura Plowman

### Social Studies Exhibit 10

**Date Submitted: November 13, 2014**

**Amy Long, Standards workgroup committee member**

The workgroup was diligent in their efforts while working on this document. We are proud of our work and believe that we have created standards that will challenge South Dakota students in their study of social studies. We believe that these standards will help prepare students for college, career and civic readiness.

### Social Studies Exhibit 11

**Date Submitted: November 19, 2014**

**Jeremy Risty, Educator (teacher, administrator, curriculum director, SPED director, etc.)**

Upon reviewing the proposed American history standards, my colleagues and I are very concerned about the breadth that we will be expected to cover in American history. In our view, the expectations to cover early American history will preclude the opportunity to adequately cover more modern American history. We feel that more recent history is much more directly relevant and applicable to the lives of our students. This content, however, we feel is being marginalized in these proposed standards.

### Social Studies Exhibit 12

**Date Submitted: December 6, 2014**

**Christen Hildebrandt, Educator (teacher, administrator, curriculum director, SPED director, etc.)**

The new standards are great and easier to use. They also challenge students and teachers to go deeper in the classroom. These new standards should be adopted!

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### Social Studies Exhibit 13

**Date Submitted: January 2, 2015**

**Stephanie Kaufman, Educator (teacher, administrator, curriculum director, SPED director, etc.)**

I am a SD high school Government teacher. Overall, the proposed Civics/Government standards provide a good starting point, however I feel there are a few omissions that should be corrected. In the K-12 C.3 section, there needs to be a more general statement about understanding the structure, organization, powers and function of each of the three branches of government. 9-12 C.3.3 is too narrow and should include topics like the nature and extent of executive power and the role of the federal bureaucracy and actual functions of the Executive branch beyond just the role of the Electoral College. C.3.4 should include the state & federal court systems and landmark decisions of the US Supreme Court, in addition to judicial review. C.3.5 should include an understanding of interstate relations as well as state & federal "powers" instead of "levels of authority". K-12 C.4 should read "of America's democratic republic" rather than just "American democracy", because it is a more accurate description of our system. 9-12 C.5.7 may have a typo--should be civil disobedience rather than obedience? I feel there are a few other omissions in general that must be included to make this a complete set of state standards. There should be a specific standard addressing the relationship of individual liberties and the concept of a limited government including civil liberties, property rights, due process of law, and the rights of the accused. There should also be a standard addressing equality before the law and civil rights. There is also no standard for the election process, i.e... primary, caucus, nomination, convention, etc..and the expansion of voter rights and current voter trends/ voter behavior. In addition there should be a standard addressing the federal budget process including fiscal policy of taxation, borrowing, spending and monetary policy of setting interest rates and printing money (buying or selling treasury notes). Our students need to understand our national debt situation and this is not included in this draft of standards. There should also be some mention of an over-arching theme of liberty v. security, especially in light of the changes we have seen since 9/11 in regard to our natural rights and the social contract. Also, the Amendment process is missing. One last note, I found it odd that "through the use of compelling questions" was used at the end of some of the standards such as C.1.1 and C.1.5, C.3.5 and C.4.1. That is not really a standard but rather a teaching practice or method. I thank those who worked on the draft version. It is not an easy task, but I think these additions could make these standards even better.