

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, Nov. 17, 2014

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Board holds hearings on content standards, gets update on assessment

The South Dakota Board of Education held the first of four public hearings on proposed content standards in social studies earlier today.

The proposed South Dakota social studies content standards are organized into four disciplines—history, geography, civics/government and economics—with the goal of making students college, career and civic ready. The new standards focus on inquiry, communication, critical thinking and problem solving. A South Dakota workgroup of K-12 teachers, higher education representatives and other education professionals developed the proposed standards. [Click here](#) to read the standards.

The board held the second of four public hearings on proposed science, fine arts and K-12 educational technology standards. [Click here](#) to view the science standards. [Click here](#) to view the fine arts standards. [Click here](#) to view the educational technology standards. Public comment on all proposed standards is accepted in several ways. Visit the [board's webpage](#) to learn more.

In addition, the board approved the latest content standards revision and adoption timeline. The timeline has been updated to include the next reviews of English language arts and math standards. Standards in career and technical education content areas typically are revised and adopted on a five-year schedule, while core content areas including English language arts and math, are reviewed on a seven-year schedule.

The board also received an update on the state's new English language arts and math assessment, called Smarter Balanced. A number of South Dakota teachers have been involved in the process of setting achievement levels for the assessment, which creates categories of performance. Once these levels are finalized, they will be presented to the board for approval.