

Social Studies Standards Review Process

Updated: 10/24/2021

BACKGROUND: In October 2021, Gov. Noem directed the Department of Education (DOE) to restart the review of South Dakota Social Studies Standards from the beginning. The [current Social Studies Standards](#) encompass four disciplines: history, civics/government, geography, and economics. The [Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards](#) are stand-alone; they are not currently part of the Social Studies Standards. The Oceti standards were last adopted by the Board of Education Standards in 2018, are available, and will continue to be available, for all schools to access.

GOALS FOR THE PROCESS: 1) Ensure the process provides clarity on what is being taught in South Dakota classrooms, 2) Ensure the process allows a variety of voices to weigh in before drafting begins, 3) Produce content standards that set the framework for instruction – descriptive enough to make clear what the expectations for student learning are, but not dictate instructional materials or curriculum

PROCESS:

- A social studies standards revision commission will be established.
 - Nomination process to open Nov. 1, 2021
 - DOE to appoint members, to include experts from a variety of disciplines and perspectives (subject-matter experts, educators, Native American perspective)
- The commission will outline required content (broad topics) by discipline and the expectations for learning (knowledge and skills) in each discipline at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- The Department of Education will offer opportunities for the public to review and provide feedback on the outline of required content *prior to* standards being drafted.
- The commission – working in concert with DOE – will draft standards based on identified content and feedback.
- Once drafted, the standards will be subject to an extensive public comment period. The Board of Education Standards, which is responsible for the adoption of standards, will provide multiple opportunities to weigh in. These include:
 - Public hearings at locations across the state: Aberdeen, Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)
 - Public comment provided via online tool, email, traditional mail (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)
- After the public comment period concludes and final standards are adopted, DOE will host trainings for educators throughout the 2023-24 school year.
- Full implementation of the standards would begin in the 2024-25 school year.