

TEACHING TO THE CONTENT STANDARDS GUIDANCE

Essential Question #1: Overall Standards Implementation

Step 1: Written Description (Narrative)

Describe the process(es) used to ensure all standards are included in the taught curriculum for all students. Note that every district will have a unique narrative based on their district process. The questions below are only a starting point and not intended to limit the narrative submission.

Questions to consider when developing the district narrative:

- How are state standards addressed with teachers? How are district expectations shared with teachers for completion of blueprints, curriculum maps, timelines, or syllabus?
- Does your district use a consistent template for K-12? Do the templates differ from K-5, 6-8, 9-12 requiring additional information based on grade level or content standards criteria?
- Does the district use a curriculum review process? Are content teachers involved in that process? Do K-12 vertical alignments occur to ensure content standards are taught school-wide?
- What system does your district use to ensure all content standards are taught? Is there an electronic system (Plan Book, Excel, etc.) for identifying standards taught during a semester course or full year?
- What process do you use to check these documents or reports to ensure the information is current for each K-12 content area?
- What process is used if reports indicate there are gaps in standards not being taught?

Required Evidence Must Include:

- Middle School (Choose either Core or Non-core content area)
- High School (Choose either Core or Non-core content area)

Note: Need to have one piece of evidence from a core and one from a non-core

Essential Question #2: Social Studies Implementation

Questions to Address:

1. Are you using Studies Weekly for elementary instruction?

If not using Studies Weekly required evidence must include:

- A detailed plan for how your district plans to implement the South Dakota Social Studies Standards including timeline and detailed resources used
- A social studies curriculum map for any single grade within the K-5 range.

Essential Question #3: Science of Reading (SOR) Implementation

1. What Tier 1 curriculum is your district using for K-5 ELA?
2. Outline your current or planned implementation of Science of Reading for the 2025-26 school year
3. Describe your coordinated plan at K-3 level to ensure all students receive instruction in SOR principles each year

Required evidence must include:

- A social studies curriculum map for any single grade within K-3 range.