

What is Studies Weekly?

Studies Weekly is Social Studies curriculum for K-5 teachers, **provided free of charge** by the South Dakota Department of Education (DOE). The curriculum package includes weekly periodicals aligned to the new Social Studies standards in grades K-5. These printed periodicals—enough for each teacher and student in K-5 classrooms—will be available to schools that opt to receive the materials beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Each school district that opts into the program will receive 32 weeks of printed Studies Weekly periodicals per grade level, K-5. Each week will highlight different topics specifically addressing the standards.

In addition to the printed periodicals, school districts that opt into the program will have access to Studies Weekly’s robust online platform and related resources. There are resources for both teachers and students within the platform.

Who is eligible to access?

Public school districts are eligible to access the new Social Studies curriculum, both the printed periodicals and the online resources. Districts that choose to opt in must do so for *all* K-5 schools in the district.

Accredited non-public schools also are eligible to access the Studies Weekly resources, both print and online.

Can I see the resources being offered?

Beginning Sept. 10, 2024, and lasting until March 31, 2025, the DOE and its approved vendor, Studies Weekly, are offering early access to a school district’s curriculum review team, so they can determine whether the curriculum is something they wish to incorporate locally. This will be online access only. The purpose of this early access period is to allow school leaders to fully understand the resources being offered, engage in curriculum mapping, and prepare for implementation in 2025-26. This early access is **free**.

If your district is interested in gaining early access for its curriculum review team to preview the online resources, please contact the Studies Weekly South Dakota team: Rachel O’Malley (rachel.omalley@studiesweekly.com) or Brianna Carroll (brianna.carroll@studiesweekly.com) They will provide you with steps to create your own review access account and approve the access for your district. Each individual will need to sign up separately.

If your team likes the resources they see, there is an option for districts to **purchase** the resource for the 2024-25 school year (prior to the state providing the resource for free beginning in 2025-26). See Q-7 below for more information.

How can I learn more?

The DOE is hosting a “sneak peek” webinar on **Sept. 9, 10-11:30 a.m. (CT), and again that afternoon, 2-3:30 p.m. (CT), for those interested in learning more about Studies Weekly.** Superintendents, curriculum directors, and principals are invited to attend. This webinar will be recorded and is available on the [Social Studies Resource Website](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/4386295434?omn=97347172754>

Meeting ID: 438 629 5434

Dial by your location

+1 253 205 0468 US

The DOE will host additional webinars **Oct. 3, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (CT) and 5-6 p.m. (CT), and again Oct. 7, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (CT) and 5-6 p.m. (CT).** These webinars will take a deeper dive into the Studies Weekly curriculum and online platform, from both the teacher and student perspective.

Participants will learn about components such as:

- Instructional strategy, modeling, and other best practices through Studies Weekly curriculum.
- How to maximize resources in the Teacher Edition such as lesson plans, ELA strategies, Slide Decks, and more.
- Resources available to check for student knowledge and understanding, and interactive activities for students.

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If our district decides to participate, how will we receive the printed periodicals?

We plan to deliver the printed periodicals directly to districts (in one lump sum for the school year). Shipping of the printed resources could begin as early as April 2025. The support would continue for six years.

What happens after the 2025-26 school year?

The Studies Weekly curriculum (printed periodicals and online platform) will be available for free for the first time in the 2025-26 school year, for those districts that register. This state support will continue for six years – through the end of the 2030-31 school year. You will receive new printed periodicals each of those school years, as well as access to the online platform.

How and when do I register to opt into the Studies Weekly program?

School districts will need to register to opt into the Studies Weekly program. The registration deadline will be March 31, 2025. A registration vehicle will be provided as we get closer to that date. As they register, districts will be asked to provide estimated K-5 enrollment counts for the 2025-26 school year. Shipping of the printed resources could begin as early as April 2025.

If a school district is interested in purchasing access to the online platform for the 2024-25 school year (prior to the state making it available for free in 2025-26), that option is available directly through the vendor. Studies Weekly has agreed to offer access to the online resources at a cost of \$7.95 per student. This price includes access for teachers and support staff. For more information about this option, school districts should contact Rachel O'Malley (rachel.omally@studiesweekly.com) at Studies Weekly directly.

Who should I contact at DOE if I have questions?

First, we invite you to view the Sept. 9 “sneak peek” webinar to learn more about this resource on the [Social Studies Resource Website](#). Subsequent webinars will be held in October to answer further questions.

In the meantime, questions can be directed to Melissa Bothun at the DOE. Email: melissa.bothun@state.sd.us.