



Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Bruce Blomberg, Social Studies Specialist

DATE: July 30, 2013

SUBJECT: Update on the Revision of Social Studies Standards

The Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies have been undergoing the review and revision process. The standards are important not only in defining what students should know and be able to do, but also in supporting quality social studies education in our schools. Over the last several months, a group of current teachers, postsecondary faculty, and academic organizations have submitted revisions electronically and have participated in a conference call or an in-person review and revision.

The proposed standards have been posted for public review. The window for the public review of the standards closes August 2nd, 2013.

An outline of the process used for the revisions of the social studies standards is included below.

IC 20-31-3-3 Revising and updating academic standards

Sec. 3. The department shall revise and update academic standards:

- (1) for each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12; and
- (2) in each subject area listed in section 2 of this chapter;

at least once every six (6) years. This revision must occur on a cyclical basis.

As added by P.L.1-2005, SEC.15. Amended by P.L.73-2011, SEC.17.

THE STANDARDS REVISION PROCESS:

- Teacher committees created
 - Memo's sent
 - Learning Connection – January 11, 2013
 - Superintendants Mail Jan 25, 2013
 - 18 Committee's created consisting of teachers, postsecondary faculty, and academic organizations
 - Kindergarten – 5 members
 - 1st Grade – 8 members
 - 2nd Grade – 3 members
 - 3rd Grade – 8 members
 - 4th Grade – 8 members
 - 5th Grade – 10 members
 - 6th Grade – 13 members
 - 7th Grade – 23 members
 - 8th Grade – 22 members
 - Economics – 12 members
 - Global Economics – 3 members
 - Geography and History of the World – 8 members
 - Psychology – 4 members
 - Sociology – 2 members
 - U.S. Government – 12 members
 - U.S. History – 15 members
 - World Geography – 3 members
 - World History and Civilization – 14 members
- 175 total members**
- Committees review standards and submit comments and possible changes
 - Specialist takes these comments and changes and creates a draft document for each subject area
 - Committee meets to create a final draft document
 - Conference Call + Google Docs
 - World History and Civilization met in person
 - Draft documents are posted for public review (ongoing – window is open until 8/02/13)
 - Final adjustments to standards documents
 - Standards will be submitted to the Education Round Table (August)
 - Standards will be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval
 - Implementation of the new adopted standards will be in 2014-2015

CHANGES IN THE 2013 STANDARDS

- The content standards for Social Studies were already very strong
- Re-worded many for clarity
- Some standards eliminated; there were some new standards created
- Examples
 - Remained in K – 7 standards
 - Eliminated in Grade 8 and high school standards for the most part
 - Examples were misinterpreted; many thought that the example was the standard
 - Resource documents for Grade 8 and high school documents will be created