



Key Changes
Topic: Tennessee History

On May 9, 2017, the 110th Tennessee General Assembly passed the Senator Douglas Henry Tennessee History Act, mandating that a required Tennessee history course be taught in grades K-12. This legislative action, Public Chapter 482, prompted further changes to the draft standards that had been approved on first reading in April.

In addition to the new Tennessee history course, which falls in the second half of fifth grade, key Tennessee history content remains embedded within 3rd and 4th grades to provide students a sound foundation. Furthermore, the 8th grade standards include a focus on how Tennessee shaped the evolution of the United States, followed by a similar emphasis in high school U.S. History. Finally, the proposed standards also feature a new high school elective course focused on Tennessee History. The course covers a variety of topics including, but not limited to: U.S. presidents from Tennessee; Tennessee's involvement in the Civil War and Reconstruction; and Tennessee's role in World War II and the Civil Rights era.

Throughout the standards document, content which has a Tennessee connection is noted with a "T" in the far right column, identifying the content strands and themes of each standard. Additionally, content marked with "T.C.A." is required to be taught, pursuant to state law.

Below are some specific examples of Tennessee-specific content and history within the proposed standards:

- Kindergarten: Identify the following state and national symbols: American flag, Tennessee flag, and the words of the Pledge of Allegiance. (K.12)
- 1st grade: Identify the three grand divisions of Tennessee on a map. (1.14)
- 2nd grade: Recognize that Tennessee has a constitution, which is the basis for our state's laws. (2.22)
- 3rd grade: Describe life on the Tennessee frontier and reasons why settlers moved west. (3.31)
- 4th grade: Analyze the causes and consequences of the French and Indian War, and recognize Fort Loudoun's role in it. (4.03)
- 5th grade: Identify the year Tennessee became a state, its first governor, and the original capital. (5.36)
- 8th grade: Trace the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and vigilante justice in the South and in Tennessee, including the role of Governor William Brownlow. (8.73)
- African American History: Identify various organizations and their roles in the Civil Rights Movement (e.g., Black Panthers, Highlander Folk School, SNCC, etc.). (AAH.43)
- Tennessee History: Analyze how the Scopes Trial reflected societal tension between tradition and modernity. (TN.49)
- U.S. Government & Civics: Identify the Tennessee representatives and senators to U.S. Congress. (GC.14)



- U.S. History: Examine the growth and popularity of country and blues music, including the rise of: the Grand Ole Opry, W.C. Handy, and Bessie Smith. (T.C.A. § 49-6-1006) (US.30)