
Social Studies Standards

The Background:

Each year a set of content standards is reviewed as part the textbook adoption cycle. In the spring of 2012 the Tennessee Department of Education reviewed the social studies standards and determined they were in need of revision. The last update occurred in 2001. The social studies standards are being revised for all grade levels and courses based on department review and the feedback collected from educators and stakeholders during the fall of 2012. The purpose of this revision is to increase the rigor represented by the standards, to refine the expectations of content in each grade and course and to align the literacy expectations of the social studies standards with the Common Core State Standards.

In December 2012 the department asked for individuals interested in reviewing and revising the standards to submit their names. This group has served as a sounding board for decisions regarding the revision process. From this group, a team of educators was interviewed and selected in January to serve on the team that revised and wrote the standards.

The first proposal of revised social studies standards was released for feedback in January 2013. Based on feedback received, the proposal was updated and re-distributed in February 2013. After the release of the second proposal, the process of writing draft standards began. The draft standards were written by the selected team of social studies educators. The department submitted these standards for public review in March and to the State Board of Education for a first reading in April 2013. The first draft of the standards was approved unanimously on first reading by the State Board of Education on April 19, 2013.

Based on feedback received from educators across the state, several revisions were made to the first drafts in order to strengthen content and clarity of expectations for student performance. Recommendations from the State Board of Education at the first reading of the draft standards were incorporated into the revisions made to the final version of the draft standards.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.