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## Tennessee Academic Standards for Social Studies

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### The Background:

T.C.A. §§ 49-1-311-313 sets the process for transparent, comprehensive review of Tennessee Academic Standards in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies. Until July 2023, these reviews occur at least every six years on a rotating basis and are further codified in State Board Standards Review Policy 3.209. They will now be reviewed on an eight-year cycle. In June 2022, the State Board began review of the social studies standards in compliance with law and policy.

After two rounds of public feedback and revisions by TN educator teams, the Standards Recommendation Committee (SRC), appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, further reviewed the revised standards and public feedback. The SRC approved and made final recommendations for the State Board regarding the new standards during their September 28, 2023 meeting. The chair and co-chair of the SRC also wrote an Executive Summary to accompany the recommendation.

In addition to the Executive Summary and proposed standards, we have also created a crosswalk that articulates each proposed change throughout all K-12 social studies courses. We believe this tool will be useful for districts and educators as they make the full transition to the new standards in the 2026-27 academic year.

Changes recommended by the SRC include:

- Keeping TN History in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Placing US History in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade and moving the geography unit previously in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, in preparation for ancient world history in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Ensured TN History was represented not only in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but throughout all US History courses.
- Reworked the Contemporary Issues course to make it more consistent and allow more flexibility for teachers as issues change and involve over the life of the standards.

On January 30, 2024, the Standards Recommendation Committee held a Special Called Meeting to discuss a recommendation made by the Chair of the State Board of Education that the SRC convene to discuss the inclusion of a standard related to George Washington (Standard 4.15 in the current social studies standards). The SRC voted to include this standard in the proposed

standards on final reading. This change was made and the current standard 4.15 has been included into the proposed standards as standard 3.26.

**Connection to the [Master Plan](#):**

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring that the Board meets the legislative mandate to review academic standards for the four core subjects at least every eight years.

**The Recommendation:**

The SBE staff recommends acceptance of this item on final reading.