

"New National Social Studies Standards" FAQs

The list of questions was generated by members of the Michigan Social Studies Supervisor's Association (MSSSA). Answers were written by Roy Sovis from Genesee ISD and David Hales from Wayne RESA, and edited by MDE Social Studies Coordinator Jim Cameron who is on the development team of the new standards.

1. **What is the name of the new standards?**

Currently an official name of the new standards has not been determined and as a result, several terms are being used to refer to the new standards. Until one is determined this document is titled, *New National Social Studies Standards*.

2. **What is the timeline for the project?**

Keep in mind all dates are tentative and subject to change; however, there are some dates that are currently guiding production.

By the end of May 2012 the third draft of the standards will be delivered to the Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSACI) group of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Documents will be prepared for public review beginning in November 2012. How long public review will last is unknown at this time, but revised standards are expected to be received by SSACI in October 2012 and released in November 2012.

3. **When can we expect to see draft documents?**

At this point the expected release of draft documents for public review will be November at the National Council for Social Studies Conference 2012.

4. **Will Social Studies be included in the assessments being developed by the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)?**

The plan is to have Social Studies included in the SBAC assessments, but it is contingent on funding.

5. **If Social Studies is not part of the SBAC, will Social Studies continue to be tested in Michigan at the state level?**

Yes, Public Acts 123 and 124 require the teaching and assessing of Social Studies at the state level.

6. **How will the standards be organized in reference to subjects that fall under Social Studies?**

The second draft of the new social studies standards maintains the content subjects (Civics, Economics, History, Geography, etc.) at the high school level that exist in most state standards, including Michigan's. Although the content expectations and standards (both current and in process) are organized by these Social Studies content subjects, schools can organize them into any classes they feel appropriate, but must grant credit according to Michigan's Public Acts 123 and 124.

Elementary standards will be in grade bands-K-2, 3-5, 6-8. This will allow districts flexibility in placing content at the grade levels they feel appropriate.

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7. **How closely are the grade bands aligning to current Michigan content expectations?**

As of April 2012 a committee began working on aligning the draft standards with the Michigan Content Expectations. This crosswalk will be updated when the SSACI committee receives the latest draft in May, 2012.

8. **Any plan to provide a map of the learning progressions to assist districts in creating curricula? (Either with a supplemental document or by adding a parenthetical list after each standard to the original document.)**

There has been thought given to making the learning progressions more evident; however, the development of these documents is contingent on funding. At the May meeting discussions will include what ancillary materials will need to be created.

9. **Any plan to have teachers write lessons and assessments and pilot the new standards?**

The only plan to have teachers write lessons and assessments is at the local level. There are currently no plans from MDE to write lessons and/or assessments. If funding is secured, then the plan is to have assessments developed by the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

10. **Will the new standards in Social Studies replace our existing Grade Level Content Expectations?**

The state legislature and MDE have the authority to adopt the new Social Studies Standards from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSCAI) committee. At this point there does not seem to be any interest in replacing the current content expectations that were adopted by MDE in 2007.

It is expected there will be some type of review by MDE and a decision made about how MDE will respond to the new standards.

Keep in mind the Michigan State Legislature could propose and pass legislation about what is to be done with the new standards that may require MDE to take action.

At this point it is too early to make any definitive plans in response to what MDE or the State Legislature may or may not do in reference to the new standards.

11. **Will the new core standards in Social Studies lead to a reorganization of history topics? For example, will districts need to teach Michigan history in a different grade?**

No, preliminary reviews of drafts by committee members indicate there will be no changes to when Michigan, United States, or World History will be taught.

12. **When will these new standards be assessed?**

At the time of this writing (April/May 2012) there is no definitive information about if and/or how the new standards will be assessed. In order to include Social Studies as part of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium additional funding will have to be acquired.

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13. **What is meant by Social Studies practices needed to be ready for college, career, and civic life?**

Refer to the Career and College Readiness document at MDE:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hs_research_doc_149897_7.pdf

14. **Should the standards referenced here <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards/history-social-studies/grades-9-10/> and its corresponding portion for grades 11-12 be incorporated into any new curriculum initiatives, or should we wait until the release of the new standards from Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSACI) group of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)?**

Yes, the History/Social Studies related standards located in the document titled, "Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects" should be incorporated into a district's existing Social Studies curriculum. One of the key design considerations that influenced the development is "Shared responsibility for students' literacy development" (page 4). It is now the responsibility of all secondary teachers to work collaboratively to assist with increasing students' literacy in reading, writing, speaking, listening and language.

15. **Who is writing the Social Studies standards?**

Thirteen writers selected by the State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) committee are writing the standards. Each draft is reviewed by Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSACI) and the Teacher Collaborative Council (TCC). SSACI consists of representatives from each state, usually the department of education. TCC consists of two teachers from each of the 22 states in the consortium.

16. **How do I stay informed of the project?**

Currently there is no formal process or location on the Internet that is providing more than just an announcement and description of the project.

SSACI has information posted here:

[http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/Social_Studies_Assessment_Curriculum_and_Instruction_\(SSACI\).html](http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/Social_Studies_Assessment_Curriculum_and_Instruction_(SSACI).html).

The information in this document is a result of an initiative through MSSSA with consultation from MDE Social Studies Coordinator Jim Cameron. When new information is released the document will be updated and sent through the channels from which you received this copy. Each copy will be dated in the footer.