



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 31, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on the Implementation of Social Studies Standards –
Teacher Preparation and Professional Learning

Over the last three years, Michigan's Social Studies education leaders have been involved in a review and revision of the Michigan Social Studies Standards, and the related Career, College, and Civic Life (C3) Framework. The new vision for social studies education states that students in Michigan will receive better learning opportunities through quality methods of teaching, quality instructional materials, and assessments aligned through the lens of the C3 Framework and the updated content standards for social studies. The revision efforts focused on refining existing standards to ensure fewer, clearer standards, and to incorporate a greater focus on disciplinary inquiry and higher-order thinking skills.

The revision effort for the Michigan Social Studies Standards and the C3 Framework Alignment Project was introduced at the January 13, 2015, State Board of Education meeting. The presentation at the February 10, 2015, meeting included additional information about the assessments that would accompany such revised standards at the classroom, district, and state level.

Today's presentation will address how the instructional model for inquiry learning in social studies, the C3 Framework's Arc of Inquiry, will be introduced to current and prospective teachers. This month's presentation will also focus on implementation factors, looking at the capacity of teachers to provide effective learning opportunities around this model and the revised performance expectations for students. Teacher preparation and ongoing learning considerations will be addressed, along with credentialing and certification factors that will affect how schools, universities, and the state support these efforts.

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