



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2019

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Sheila Alles, Chairperson 

SUBJECT: Presentation on Social Studies Standards

In April of 2014, the Department of Education assembled a group of social studies experts with the charge of updating the Michigan K-12 Social Studies Standards. These Michigan social studies experts reviewed and edited all content expectations with a goal to make them more rigorous and clearer for use in the classroom. The Department asked the group to streamline the standards while retaining those elements that would lead to graduates prepared for civic life in the 21st century.

Drafts have been presented to the State Board of Education in March 2015 and May 2018. Following those presentations, Department staff conducted periods of public comment so that citizens and educators could provide feedback on the standards. Following each period of public comment, social studies experts made changes based on the feedback.

The most recent period of public comment involved 18 Listen & Learn Sessions around the state and established an online survey for those who couldn't attend the Listen & Learn Sessions. Over 5,000 responses are recorded. (Those responses were shared with the State Board of Education members in December 2018. Newly elected members received the responses in January 2019.)

A task force consisting of students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members met multiple times over the next eight months to incorporate many of the suggestions received during the period of public comment. Additionally, work groups of several cultural/ethnic communities reviewed the draft standards. These groups proposed considerations for the standards or the examples that accompany the standards. The results of this work are found in Attachments A and B.

See Attachment A [Draft Standards](#)

See Attachment B [Side-by-side comparison of the Adopted 2007 standards and the 2019 draft standards](#)

See Attachment C [Side-by-side comparison of draft 2018 standards \(red line version\) and the 2019 draft standards](#)

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