



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"

**Georgia Department of Education  
Item for State Board of Education Approval  
– Standards Adoption & Revision –**

**Item Name**

CI - Standards - Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)

**Recommendation – Action – Approval to Post for Comment**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education post the Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies for public review and comment.

**Supports the Following Education Goal or Goals in the Agency Strategic Plan**

- Revise/develop and implement viable academic standards that engage learners with essential knowledge, skills, and enduring concepts

**Measurable Outcome or Deliverable:** Deliver state plan for standards roll-out to include: communications, development and dissemination, and professional learning

- Increase the percentage of high school graduates who are college and/or career ready

**Measurable Outcome or Deliverable:** Increase the statewide graduation rate for all students

**Rationale**

Social Studies Standards of Excellence for grades K-12 support Department of Education strategic goals for ensuring that each and every student is afforded a high-quality and holistic education, including increasing the percentage of K-5 students with a strong knowledge of foundational skills and concepts.

**Details**

A formal review and revision process has been conducted for the K-12 Social Studies Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The review process included several public survey opportunities. Teacher and stakeholder survey results informed the revision process for drafting K-12 Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). A teacher survey was conducted from April 16, 2015, through June 15, 2015. An external stakeholder survey was conducted from August 10, 2015, through September 15, 2015. Teacher survey data consisted of 9,031 responses. The teacher survey data was analyzed by University System of Georgia staff. Stakeholder survey data consisted of 1,010 responses. Stakeholder survey data was collected and analyzed by staff from SEDL, an affiliate of the American Institutes of Research and staff from Georgia State University.

Working Committees representing K-12 Georgia public school teachers, post-secondary staff, parents, and instructional leaders from across the state made revisions to the standards based on survey results. Advisory Committees representing teachers from the Working Committees, post-secondary staff, business and industry, parents, and instructional leaders reviewed the recommendations made by the Working Committees and provided additional suggestions for clarity and change based on feedback and survey recommendations. An Academic Review Committee, consisting of representatives from the K-12 writing and advisory committees, K-12 instructional leaders, post-secondary educators, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, business and industry, and Department of Education leadership staff, reviewed and finalized the draft revised standards for presentation to the State Board of Education for permission to post for 60 days for public review and comment in January 2016. The draft standards were posted for 60 days from January 15, 2016, to March 14, 2016. There were 7,476 unique Social Studies survey responses.

The State Board of Education postponed the adoption of the Social Studies GSE at the March 31, 2016, State Board Meeting. Social Studies committee members reconvened and made recommendations to the Social Studies GSE on April 20, 2016. This item is requesting to repost the Social Studies GSE and for public review and comment. If approved, the projected date for implementation is school year 2017-2018.

**Contacts**

Shaun Owen, Program Manager for Social Studies  
Joy Hatcher, Program Specialist for Social Studies  
Pam Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Caitlin McMunn Dooley, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction