

# Alaska Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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The state of Alaska revises its statewide social studies standards according to a schedule periodically released by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Alaska public schools. The revision of statewide standards is a process that is directed by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; in the past, the Department has assembled writing and review teams from Alaska educators, statewide education agency representatives, tribal leadership, state board of education members, and other community stakeholders to review existing social studies standards and draft new standards. The Alaska State Board of Education is responsible for adopting Alaska’s statewide academic standards. Before final adoption of standards takes place, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to existing social studies standards through public comment periods on drafted standards released by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and public comment periods held by the Alaska State Board of Education.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

1. Current Alaska social studies standards and their current website location
2. How often Alaska is required to review and revise its social studies standards
3. State laws and administrative codes governing social studies instruction in Alaska public schools
4. Which state agencies and groups are responsible for writing and adopting social studies standards
5. The electoral or bureaucratic relationships these agencies have with the general public in Alaska
6. What opportunity Alaska community members and educators have to offer feedback and comment during a standards’ revision cycle

**1. Current Alaska social studies standards and their current website location**

**a. Current Alaska Social Studies Standards [Adopted 2005]**

- i. [Alaska Geography Standards](#)
- ii. [Alaska Government and Citizenship Standards](#)
- iii. [Alaska History Standards](#)

**b. Website Location**

- i. [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development \(AKDEED\) Website](#)

**2. How often Alaska is required to review and revise its social studies standards**

[Current Alaska Academic Standards Revision Schedule](#): Alaska does not have an academic standards' revision schedule which requires the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to review and revise standards every certain number of years.

**3. State laws and administrative codes governing social studies instruction in Alaska public schools**

**a. Alaska Legislation**

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [AS 14.18.060](#) [*Discrimination in textbooks and instructional materials prohibited*]

**b. Alaska Administrative Code**

- i. [4 AAC 04.020](#) [*Skills for graduating students*]
- ii. [4 AAC 04.030](#) [*Subjects*]
- iii. [4 AAC 04.140](#) [*Content standards*]
- iv. [4 AAC 04.180](#) [*Student cultural standards*]
- v. [4 AAC 06.550](#) [*Review of instructional materials*]
- vi. [4 AAC 06.075](#) [*High school graduation requirements*]
- vii. [4 AAC 06.065](#) [*Challenging courses*]

**4. Which state agencies and groups are responsible for writing and adopting social studies standards**

**a. *What agency writes Alaska’s social studies standards?***

The Department of Education and Early Development establishes Alaska’s social studies standards ([AS 14.07.020](#)).

In the past, the Department has assembled writing and review teams from Alaska educators, statewide education agency representatives, tribal leadership, state board of education members, and other community stakeholders to draft and review existing social studies standards.

- i. Any questions can be directed to:

[Kelly Manning](#),

Deputy Director,

Department of Education and Early Development

***b. What agency adopts Alaska’s social studies standards?***

The Alaska State Board of Education reviews and adopts statewide social studies standards ([4 AAC 04.140](#)).

**5. The electoral or bureaucratic relationships these agencies have with the general public in Alaska**

***a. How are the members of the Alaska State Board of Education appointed?***

The seven members of the Board, (no more than four of whom can be members of the same political party as the governor), shall be appointed by the governor, and confirmed by a majority of the members of the legislature ([AS 14.07.485](#)).

***b. How is the Alaska State Commissioner of Education appointed?***

The Commissioner of Education is appointed by the Board of Education & Early Development, subject to approval of the governor ([AS 14.7.145](#)).

**6. What opportunity Alaska community members and educators have to offer feedback and comment during a standards’ revision cycle**

***a. Where does public input occur during Alaska’s standards revision process?***

During a revision cycle, proposed revisions to existing social studies standards are presented to the State Board of Education and Early Development for review. If the proposed revisions are approved for posting to public comment, the draft standards will be posted for 30 days with an opportunity for public comment at the next Board meeting, as Alaska’s standards’ revision process requires that public comment opportunities on the revised standards be offered at two separate Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development meetings; all Board meetings, recordings of meetings, and annual calendars are provided on this [Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development Information Page](#).

During any standards revision cycle, proposed revisions to social studies standards, public comment periods, and public hearings relating to these revisions are announced and conducted on the [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development “Comment on Regulations” web page](#); drafts of proposed revisions as well as public hearing notices are provided on the [Alaska On-Line Public Notice system](#).

- i. Any questions can be directed to:

[Kelly Manning](#),

Deputy Director,

Department of Education and Early Development