

Arizona Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Arizona revises its statewide social studies standards according to a schedule periodically released by the Arizona Department of Education. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Arizona public schools. The Department appoints social studies standards writing committees through a public application process; members represent diverse populations within K-12 Arizona public and charter schools, university faculty, social studies and teacher professional organizations, and expert social studies organizations. The writing committees are responsible for writing recommendations for existing social studies standards which the Arizona State Board considers for final adoption. Before adoption takes place, however, the general public may review and comment on the drafts of proposed revisions to existing social studies standards via public community hearings and online comment periods.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

1. Current Arizona social studies standards and their current website location
2. How often Arizona is required to review and revise its social studies standards
3. State laws and administrative codes governing social studies instruction in Arizona 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 Arizona
6. What opportunity Arizona community members and educators have to offer feedback and comment during a standards' revision cycle.

1. Current Arizona social studies standards and their current website location

a. Current Arizona Social Studies Standards According to Grade Band [Adopted October 22, 2018]

- i. [Arizona K–2 Social Studies Standards](#)
- ii. [Arizona Grades 3–5 Social Studies Standards](#)
- iii. [Arizona Grades 6–8 Social Studies Standards](#)
- iv. [Arizona 9-12 Social Studies Standards](#)

b. Website Location

- i. [Arizona Department of Education \(AZDE Website\)](#)

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

[Arizona Academic Standards Revision Schedule](#): Arizona’s statutory code does not indicate a mandatory academic standards revision schedule that requires the state to revise standards every certain number of years (Incomplete information on this point); according to the Arizona Department of Education’s current standards’ review timeline, social studies standards were last revised and adopted from 2017–2018 and are next scheduled for implementation review from 2024-2025.

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

a. Arizona Legislation

- i. [A.R.S. §15-701.02](#) [*Instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides*]
- ii. [A.R.S. § 15-203.](#) [*Powers and duties; definition*]

b. Arizona Administrative Code

- i. [Ariz. Administrative Code §7-2-319](#) [*State Seal of Personal Finance Proficiency*]
- ii. [Ariz. Administrative Code §7-2-320](#) [*State Seal of Civics Literacy*]
- iii. [Ariz. Administrative Code § 7-2-305](#) [*Declaration of Independence*]
- iv. [Ariz. Administrative Code § 7-2-301.A\(4\)](#) [*Minimum Course of Study and Competency Goals for Students in the Common Schools*]
- v. [Ariz. Administrative Code § 7-2-302](#) [*Minimum Course of Study and Competency Requirements for Graduation from High School*]

c. Arizona State Board of Education Policy

- i. [AZBE Policy #013](#) [*Indian Education Policy Statement*]

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

a. Which agency writes Arizona’s social studies standards?

The Arizona Department of Education directs the writing of Arizona’s statewide academic standards by appointing writing committees; the Department solicits applications for committee membership by posting publicly accessible application information on platforms such as the [Arizona Department of Education website](#). Members must represent diverse populations of K-12 public and charter schools, university faculty, social studies/teacher professional organizations, and expert social studies organizations.

- i. For more information, see: [Arizona Academic Standards Development Process](#)

b. Which agency adopts Arizona’s social standards?

The Arizona State Board of Education adopts academic standards for Arizona primary, elementary, and secondary education ([A.R.S. 15-701](#), [A.R.S 15-701.01](#)).

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

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

The Arizona State Board of Education is made up of 11 members: the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction and 10 members appointed by the Arizona Governor and confirmed by the Arizona Senate. Appointed and confirmed members serve four year terms. Positions include: four lay members, a president of a community college district, an Arizona university president, a superintendent of a high school district, a classroom teacher, a county school superintendent and an owner/operator of a charter school ([A.R.S. 15-201](#)).

b. How is the Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed?

Pursuant to [Arizona Constitution, Article 5, Section 1](#), the Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction is a public office, subject to election in midterm election years (2006, 2010, 2014, etc.) every four years.

6. What opportunity Arizona community members and educators have to offer feedback and comment during a standards' revision cycle

a. Where does public input occur during the standards' revision process?

During the revision process, drafts of Arizona's Social Studies Standards are released for public review on the [Arizona Department of Education website](#) along with a public survey to collect public comments on the draft. Furthermore, the Department provides contact information (email and physical address) and due dates to receive public comments outside of the survey.

The Arizona Department of Education holds public community meetings of which notices concerning date, time, and location are posted in advance. Arizona State Board of Education meetings concerning the social studies standards' revision process are also open to the public and recorded versions of the live meetings are made available on demand; all Board meetings, public hearings, and meeting agendas are available at the [Arizona Board of Education Public Hearings web page](#).

Prior to final approval by the Arizona Board of Education, social studies standards writing committees review drafts of proposed revisions to social studies standards and revise according to public comment.

- i. For more information on the above, see:
 1. [Arizona Academic Standards Development Process](#) (can be found on [2018 Arizona Social Studies Standards Review Information Page](#))
 2. [AZBE Policy #004](#) [*Flowchart for ASDC Policy*]