

California Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of California is not required by any statutory law or regulatory authority to periodically revise its statewide social studies standards. These standards govern social studies instruction in all California public schools. California statewide academic standards are revised only when the state Senate passes legislation authorizing a standards' revision process. When passed, this legislation will determine which bureaucratic and state agencies will be involved in reviewing, developing, and writing standards as well as the level of public input during the revision process. As such, California's social studies standards revision process is subject to change depending on the requirements of the legislation authorizing a new revision cycle.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Current California 1998 K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted October 9, 1998]

a. Website Location

- i. [California Department of Education \(CDE\) Website](#)

2. Current California History-Social Science Curriculum Framework and its current website location

[California 2016 K-12 History-Social Studies Curriculum Framework](#) [Adopted July 14, 2016]

a. Website Location

- i. [California Department of Education \(CDE\) Website](#)

3. How often California is required to review and revise its social studies standards

California content standards revision schedule: California does not have a mandated standards adoption cycle or protocol; revisions only occur when legislation has been passed requiring it. Legislation passed authorizing a revision process for California’s social studies standards last occurred in 1998. Thus, until legislation is passed again authorizing a new process, the 1998 standards will remain California's adopted history-social science standards.

a. Any questions can be directed to:

[Kenneth McDonald,](#)

Education Programs Consultant for the CDE’s Curriculum Frameworks Unit,
California Department of Education

4. State laws and administrative codes governing social studies instruction in California public schools

a. California Education Code

- i. [See: NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Cal Ed Code Div. 3 Part 25 Chap. 3.66 § 44777.2](#) (*Latino Heritage Resource Centers [44777.1 - 44777.7]*)
- iii. [Cal Ed Code Div. 3 Part 25 Chap. 3.66 § 44777.4](#) (*Latino Heritage Resource Centers [44777.1 - 44777.7]*)
- iv. [Cal Ed Code Div. 3 Part 25 Chap. 3.66 § 44777.5](#) (*Latino Heritage Resource Centers [44777.1 - 44777.7]*)
- v. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 28 Chap. 2 § 51282](#) (*Primary Education Model Curriculum for Lifelong Health, Aging, and Financial Literacy [51280 - 51284.5]*)
- vi. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 28 Chap. 2 § 51284](#) (*Primary Education Model Curriculum for Lifelong Health, Aging, and Financial Literacy [51280 - 51284.5]*)
- vii. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 28 Chap. 2 § 51284.5](#) (*Primary Education Model Curriculum for Lifelong Health, Aging, and Financial Literacy [51280 - 51284.5]*)
- viii. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 28 Chap. 4 § 51530](#) (*Advocacy or Teaching of Communism [51530- 51530.]*)
- ix. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 33 Chap. 1 § 60040](#) (*Requirements, Materials [60040 - 60052]*)

- x. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 33 Chap. 2 § 60200](#) (*Selection and Adoption* [60200 - 60213])
- xi. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 33 Chap. 2 § 60200.5](#) (*Selection and Adoption* [60200 - 60213])
- xii. [Cal Ed Code Div. 4 Part 33 Chap. 2 § 60200.6](#) (*Selection and Adoption* [60200 - 60213])

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

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

Social studies standards, along with any other academic standards in California are developed or revised only when legislation is passed by the state legislature calling for development or revision. Thus, there is no mandated or standard process California abides by when reviewing and revising its content standards. Various advisory committees or standards commissions in the past have been responsible for drafting social studies standards, but there is no legislation which requires any specific agency, committee, or organization to be continually responsible for writing California’s social studies standards.

- i. Any questions can be directed to:
[Kenneth McDonald](#),
Education Consultant for the CDE’s Curriculum Frameworks Unit,
California Department of Education

b. Which agency adopts California’s social studies standards?

The California [State Board of Education](#) adopts all statewide academic standards.

6. The electoral or bureaucratic relationships these agencies have with the general public in California

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

The 11 members of the Board are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the senate. ([Cal Ed Code Div. 2 Part 20 Chap. 1 § 33540](#) (*Composition* [33000-33011])).

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

The California State Superintendent is [elected every four years](#) during gubernatorial election years

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

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

All meetings, including those concerning development and revision of social studies standards, of standards commissions, the Instructional Quality Commission, and the State Board of Education are open to the public and public comment pursuant to the [Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act](#). Beyond this, the process for public feedback and revision is usually detailed in the legislation which authorized the development or revision of California's most recent social studies standards in the first place and is therefore subject to change.

- i. Any questions can be directed to:

[Kenneth McDonald](#),

Education Consultant for the CDE's Curriculum Frameworks Unit,
California Department of Education