

# Colorado Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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Colorado law requires the state to revise a third of its statewide academic standards, including those in social studies, every six years. Statewide social studies standards govern social studies instruction in all Colorado public schools. The revision of these standards is directed by the Colorado Department of Education. The Department assembles a Social Studies Standards Revision Committee, composed of Colorado primary and secondary educators, public school parents, administrators, and social studies coordinators. The Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising Colorado's statewide social studies standards as well as taking into consideration any public input on standards and their revision before submitting finalized revised standards to the State Board of Education for approval. Before this approval takes place, however, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to existing social studies standards through multiple, Department-conducted public comment periods.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Colorado 2020 preK-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted 2020]

**a. Website Location**

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

**b. Colorado 2021 Draft Revisions to 2020 Social Studies Standards**

- i. [Colorado 2021 Draft Revision Recommendations for Social Studies](#)
- ii. [Colorado Summary of Revision Alterations to Social Studies Standards](#)

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

[Colorado Academic Standards Revision Schedule](#): The Colorado State Board of Education is required to ensure that approximately one-third of the statewide academic standards are reviewed every six years ([C.R.S. §22-7-1005](#)); currently, Colorado social studies standards have been and will continue to be reviewed from July 2020 to the Fall of 2022.

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

**a. Colorado Legislation**

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [C.R.S. §22-2-127.3](#) [*Holocaust and genocide studies - resource bank - technical assistance - definitions*]

**b. Code of Colorado Regulations**

- i. [CCR 301-1-11.0](#) [*Performance Reporting*]

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

**a. Which agency writes Colorado’s social studies standards?**

In Colorado, various commissions, working groups, or committees draft proposed recommendations to statewide social studies standards and then present these recommendations to the public and State Board of Education for feedback and final adoption.

- i. The Social Studies Standards Revision Committee: The Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising Colorado’s statewide social studies standards as well as taking into consideration any public input on standards and their revision before submitting finalized revised standards to the State Board of Education for approval; it is composed of Colorado primary and secondary educators, public school parents, administrators, and social studies coordinators who apply for membership via a public application process.
- ii. During a revision cycle for history or civics standards, the State Board is further required to consider recommendation provided by the History, Culture, Social Contributions, and Civil Government in Education Commission ([C.R.S. 22-7-1005](#))
  1. For more information, see: [Colorado DOE Summary of Draft Revision Recommendations for Social Studies](#)

***b. Which agency adopts Colorado’s social studies standards?***

The Colorado State Board of Education adopts elementary and secondary education standards ([C.R.S. §22-7-1005](#)).

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

***a. How are the members of the History, Culture, Social Contributions, and Civil Government in Education Commission appointed?***

The 16 members in the Commission are appointed by the governor and are required to reflect the diversity of the state in ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and physical ability ([C.R.S. 22-1-104.3](#)).

***b. How are the members of the Colorado Board of Education appointed?***

The nine members of the Colorado Board of Education are elected from the state's eight congressional districts to staggered six-year terms ([C.R.S. §22-2-105](#)).

***c. How is the Colorado State Commissioner of Education appointed?***

The Commissioner is appointed by the State Board of Education and serves at the Board's pleasure ([C.R.S. §22-2-106](#)).

**6. What opportunity Colorado 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?***

The Colorado Department of Education conducts multiple public comment periods throughout the social studies standards revision process:

- i. Before the Social Studies Standards Revision Committee begins drafting new social studies standards, the Colorado Department of Education offers an initial public comment period in which members of the general public can provide comments and suggestions on existing statewide social studies standards.
- ii. After posting the Social Studies Standards Revision Committee's first draft of revised social studies standards on the [Colorado Department of Education website](#), the Department conducts a second public comment period in which members of the public may review drafts and provide input. This input is later utilized by the Committee in editing the drafts of revised standards and is presented to the State Board of Education; any feedback on proposed standards revisions during a revision cycle can be sent to [costandardsrevision@cde.state.co.us](mailto:costandardsrevision@cde.state.co.us).
  1. For more information, see: [Colorado DOE Social Studies Revision Process Information page](#)