

# Georgia Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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The state of Georgia regularly revises its statewide social studies standards every four years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Georgia public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the Georgia Department of Education. The Department assembles Working, Advisory and Academic Committees. These Committees are responsible for reviewing and revising Georgia's social studies standards as well as evaluating public feedback; members are appointed by the Governor, State School Superintendent, Georgia State Board of Education and Georgia Department of Education. Once revisions to statewide social studies standards are completed, the Georgia State Board of Education reviews and considers them for adoption. Before the 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 surveys released by the Department and a 60-day public comment period.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Georgia K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted June 9, 2016]

**a. Website Location**

- i. [Georgia Department of Education \(GaDE\) Website](#)

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

Georgia Academic Standards Revision Schedule: The Georgia State Board of Education is required to review statewide social studies standards at least every four years ([O.C.G.A. § 20-2-141](#)).

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

**a. Georgia Legislation**

- i. See: [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)

**b. Georgia DOE Compiled Rules and Regulations**

- i. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-3-1-.07](#) [*Testing Programs – Student Assessment*]
- ii. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2-.07](#) [*Instruction in United States and Georgia History and Government*]

- iii. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-4-2-.48](#) [*High School Graduation Requirements for Students Enrolling in the Ninth Grade for the First Time in the 2008-09 School Year and Subsequent Years*]
- iv. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs.160-4-2-.05](#) [*Middle School Program Criteria*]

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

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

The Georgia Department of Education convenes the process of writing and revising standards; during a revision cycle, the Department appoints Working, Advisory and Academic Committees to review and revise Georgia’s social studies standards.

- i. **Working Committee:** The Working Committee uses public feedback from Georgia DOE released surveys on existing social studies standards to draft revisions for these standards; the majority of this committee consists of K-12 Georgia teachers as well as higher education and business/industry representatives. Members are appointed by the Governor, State School Superintendent, Georgia State Board of Education and Georgia Department of Education.
- ii. **Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee reviews the revisions made by the Working Committee and makes additional recommendations; this committee is made up of Georgia teachers, parents, business/industry representatives, organizations, and universities. Members are appointed by the Governor and State School Superintendent.

iii. **Academic Review Committee:** The Academic Review Committee also reviews proposed revisions and makes additional recommendations; members of this Committee are appointed by the Governor and State School Superintendent and are made up of Georgia teachers, business/industry representatives, organizations, and universities.

1. For more information, see:

a. [Georgia Social Studies Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#)

b. [Georgia K-12 English Language Arts Standards Review Process Citizens Review Committee \(pdf\)](#)

i. The Georgia K-12 English Language Arts Standards Review Process file was provided by the Georgia DE Social Studies Program Manager, A. Joy Hatcher

2. Any questions can be directed to:

[A. Joy Hatcher](#), (CSIS)<sup>TM</sup>  
Social Studies Program Manager,  
Curriculum & Instruction,  
Georgia Department of Education

***b. Which agency adopts Georgia's social studies standards?***

Georgia State Board of Education adopts statewide social studies standards ([O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240](#)).

i. For more information, see:

1. [Georgia Social Studies Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#)

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

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

The Georgia State Board of Education is composed of 15 members, including the Superintendent of Schools. The other members are representatives of Georgia's 14 congressional districts; they are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the State Senate ([O.C.G.A. § 20-2-140](#)).

*b. How is the Georgia State Superintendent of Schools appointed?*

The Superintendent is elected every four years during federal midterm elections years "in the same manner and for the same term as the governor is elected ([O.C.G.A § 20-2-30](#)).

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

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

At the onset of a revision cycle, the Georgia Department of Education sends out a Teacher Survey and an External Stakeholder Survey; the former is for Georgia social studies K-12 educators to comment on existing social studies standards, the latter is for the general public, including parents, business/industry, university faculty, students, and taxpayers to comment on existing standards.

Before final adoption by the Georgia State Board of Education, revised social studies standards are posted for public review and comment for a period of 60 days.

- i. For the above information, see: [Georgia Social Studies Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#)

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[A. Joy Hatcher](#), (CSIS)<sup>TM</sup>  
Social Studies Program Manager,  
Curriculum & Instruction,  
Georgia Department of Education