

Idaho Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

State law requires Idaho to revise its statewide social studies standards every six years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Idaho public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the Idaho Department of Education. The Department appoints a social studies standards' review committee consisting of Idaho community members and experienced educators from different regions of the state in order to revise Idaho's social studies standards. In order for revised standards to be adopted, standards must be approved twice by the Idaho State Board of Education before being submitted to the Idaho Legislature for final approval. Before this final adoption takes place, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to existing social studies standards through three separate regional public input meetings and a 21-day public comment period.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Idaho K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted November 8, 2016]

a. Website Location

- i. [Idaho State Department of Education \(SDE\) Website](#)

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

Idaho Social Studies Standards Revision Schedule: Idaho revises statewide content standards on a six-year adoption cycle.

- a. For more information, see: [Idaho DOE Content Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#) (pg 1)

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

a. Idaho Legislation

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Idaho Code §73-108B](#) [*Constitutional Commemorative Day*]
- iii. [Idaho Code §33-1607](#) [*Americanization Education of Adults*]

b. Idaho Administrative Code – Education Rules

- i. [Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.004](#) [*Incorporation by Reference*]
- ii. [Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.200](#) [K-12 Idaho Content Standards]
- iii. [Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.103](#) [*Instruction Grades 1-12*]
- iv. [Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.105](#) [*High School Graduation Requirements*]
- v. [Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.170](#) [Citizenship]

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

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

The Idaho State Department of Education is responsible for convening the content standards’ revision and writing process; the Department appoints a social studies standards’ review committee consisting of Idaho community members and experienced educators from different regions of the state to consider whether revisions or additions are needed for existing Idaho social studies standards.

- i. For more information, see:
 1. [Idaho DOE Content Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#)
 2. [Idaho 2020 ELA Standards Review Committee Participants List](#)

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

Academic standards are approved twice by the Idaho State Board of Education; final approval of standards is completed by the Idaho Legislature.

The first Board approval of proposed revisions to existing social studies standards precedes a public comment period. If the Board approves revised social studies standards a second time in the fall of the year after the public comment period, the standards are sent to the Idaho Legislature for final approval.

- i. See: [Idaho DOE Content Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#)

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

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

The eight members of the Idaho State Board of Education are the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who is popularly elected, and seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate ([Idaho Code §33-102](#)).

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

The Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction is elected in federal midterm elections ([Idaho Constitution, Article IV, Section 1](#)).

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

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

While drafting proposed revisions to existing social studies standards, Idaho's standards' writing committees seek out public feedback through regional public input meetings.

- i. For the above information, see: [Idaho Content Standards Revision Timeline \(from most recent 2020 revision of ELA, math, and science standards\)](#)

Once the State Department of Education's writing team finishes drafting proposed revisions, the revised standards are sent to the Idaho State Board of Education for approval at one of the Board's periodical meetings. If the revisions to existing social studies standards are approved, an immediate 21 day open public comment period begins where any member of the general public can offer suggestions and feedback on the revised standards.

The State Board of Education considers these comments and may choose to modify the original set of revised standards.

- ii. For the above information, see: [Idaho DOE Content Standards Revision Process \(pdf\)](#)