

# Kentucky Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

---

The state of Kentucky regularly revises its statewide social studies standards. Kentucky statewide social studies standards govern social studies instruction in all Kentucky public schools. Standards' revision is directed by the Kentucky Department of Education, which appoints standards review committees and advisory panels from Kentucky educators and community members in order to draft proposed revisions to existing social studies standards. Proposed revisions are reviewed and commented on by the general public in the form of surveys, formal online public comment periods, and Board of Education meetings in which community members and educators can directly address the Board and provide feedback on standards. The revision process is complete when the Kentucky DOE submits proposed revisions to the State Board of Education, which then adopts the revised social studies standards.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

**a. Kentucky Statewide Social Studies Standards**

- i. [Kentucky K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted in July 2019]

**b. Website Location**

- i. [Kentucky Department of Education \(KDE\) Website](#)

**c. Kentucky Social Studies Resources**

- i. [Kentucky Social Studies Resources](#)

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

Kentucky Social Studies Standards Revision Schedule: According to Kentucky’s current schedule, one or two content areas must be reviewed each year and every six years thereafter on a rotating basis ([K.R.S § 158.6453](#)).

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

**a. Kentucky Revised Statutes:**

- i. See: [NAS State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [KRS §156.160](#) [*Promulgation of administrative regulations by Kentucky Board of Education – Voluntary compliance – Penalty*]
- iii. [KRS §158.860](#) [*Examination upon completion of core content course*]

**b. Kentucky Administrative Regulations:**

- i. [704 KAR 8:060](#) [*Required Academic Standards for Social Studies*]

- ii. [704 KAR 8:070](#) [*Kentucky Academic Standards for Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible Elective Social Studies Course*]

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

##### ***a. Which agency writes Kentucky's social studies standards?***

The Kentucky Department of Education convenes the revision process of social studies standards with advice of standards review committees and advisory panels that the Department appoints; these committees are required to consist of Kentucky educators and community members ([K.R.S § 158.6453](#)).

**Social Studies Standards and Assessments Review Committee:** This Committee reviews, writes, and updates statewide social studies standards. It consists of a minimum of six Kentucky public school social studies teachers and a minimum of two Kentucky university social studies representatives, including at least one from a public university.

**3 Advisory Panels:** One panel reviews K-5 standards, one reviews 6-8 standards, and one reviews 9-12 standards; Each panel is composed of at least one representative from a Kentucky university and a minimum of six Kentucky public school social studies teachers who teach in the grade level of their particular advisory

**The Standards and Assessments Process Review Committee (SAPRC):** This Committee is responsible for reviewing the Department's revision process to guarantee that shareholders have sufficient opportunity for offering feedback and comment. If SAPRC finds the process to be adequate, the proposed recommendations are sent to the Kentucky Board of Education for adoption. If the process is found to be inadequate, the recommendations are sent back to the review committees and advisory panels for additional review. The Committee consists of the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, and nine voting representatives of public schools, including two parents of public school students, one language arts teacher, one math teacher, one science teacher, one social studies teacher, two principals, two local superintendents, and one school board member, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

- a. For more information, see: [Kentucky Academic Standards Review Process Information Page](#)

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

The Kentucky Board of Education adopts statewide social studies standards ([K.R.S § 158.6453](#)).

**5. The relationship between the Kentucky Department of Education, Board of Education and public during a standards’ revision cycle**

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

There are 15 members on the Kentucky Board of Education. The 11 voting members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate of the General Assembly; the remaining 4 non-voting members, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and a high school student and active elementary or secondary school teacher, are appointed by the Board ([KRS §156.029](#)).

***b. How is the Kentucky Education Commissioner appointed?***

The State Commissioner of Education is appointed by the Kentucky Board of Education and serves at its pleasure ([KRS §156.148](#)).

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

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

The Kentucky standards’ revision process begins with a survey conducted by a third party on the current *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)*. This survey is released for 30 days and its results are presented to the advisory panels and review committee to respond to.

Once the advisory panels and review committees draft a new set of proposed standards, a third party survey goes out to receive additional feedback on the draft. Once the 30-day window closes on this survey, the advisory panels and review committees reconvene to respond to comment.

Another round of public comment is collected after approval of the KAS by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). This period of public comment lasts 60 days; members of the public can share feedback, suggestions, and comments at any time to [standards@education.ky.gov](mailto:standards@education.ky.gov), but the Kentucky Department of Education has formal public comment periods managed via the third-party survey during the revision process ([K.R.S § 158.6453](#)).

i. For more information, see: [Kentucky Academic Standards Review Process Information Page](#)

ii. Any questions can be directed to:

[Thomas Christopher Clouse](#),  
Education Academic Program Manager,  
Division of Program Standards,  
Office of Teaching and Learning,  
Kentucky Department of Education

Furthermore, nearly all Kentucky Board of Education meetings are open to the public; during meetings in which the Board reads proposed standards, members of the public have the opportunity to provide feedback during the regular public comment period. All public hearings and their topics of discussion are provided on the [KDE Public Hearings Information Page](#).

iii. Any questions can be directed to:

[Thomas Christopher Clouse](#)  
Education Academic Program Manager  
Division of Program Standards  
Office of Teaching and Learning  
Kentucky Department of Education