

Louisiana Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

Louisiana state law requires Louisiana to revise its statewide social studies standards at least once every 7 years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Louisiana public schools. The revision of statewide standards is a process directed by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). The Board appoints a Standards Review Committee and social studies expert subcommittees; members are Louisiana educators, community members, and social studies scholars. These Committees are responsible for writing recommendations for statewide content standards. The BESE is responsible for considering revised standards for adoption. Before the final adoption of standards takes place, however, the general public in Louisiana has the opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to existing social studies standards through public committee meetings and hearings.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Louisiana K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted in 2022]

a. Website Location

- i. [Louisiana Department of Education \(LDOE\) Website](#)

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

Louisiana Academic Standards Revision Schedule: The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to review and revise statewide social studies content standards at least once every seven years ([La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2301](#)).

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

a. Louisiana Legislation

- i. See: [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [La. R.S. 17:24.4](#) [*Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers*]
- iii. [La.R.S. 17:183.3](#) [*Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements*]

- iv. [La. R.S. 17:261](#) [*Constitution of the United States*]

- v. [La. R.S. 17:262](#) [*Flag and patriotic customs of the United States; required instruction*]

- vi. [La. R.S. 17:264](#) [*Community service; high school diploma endorsement program*]

- vii. [La. R.S. 17:265](#) [*The Founding Principles of the United States of America; required instruction*]

- viii. [La. R.S. 17:268](#) [*Declaration of Independence and Federalist Papers*]

- ix. [La. R.S. 17:269](#) [*Selective service obligation orientation program*]

- x. [La. R.S. 17:274](#) [*Free enterprise; elective course*]

- xi. [La. R.S. 17:274.1](#) [*Civics and Free Enterprise; required; exceptions*]

- xii. [La. R.S. 17:277](#) [*Black history and the historical contributions of all nationalities; required study*]

- xiii. [La. R.S. 17:282.2](#) [*Character education programs; legislative findings; clearinghouse for information; permissive curriculum; dissemination of information; progress reports; rules and regulations*]
- xiv. [La. R.S. 17:3996](#) [*Charter schools; exemptions; requirements*]
- xv. [La. R.S. 24:971 – 974](#) [*Louisiana Commission on Civic Education*]

b. Louisiana Administrative Code: Education

- i. [La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2313](#) [*Elementary Program of Studies*]
- ii. [La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2303](#) [*Planning and Instruction*]
- iii. [La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2318](#) [*The TOPS University Diploma*]
- iv. [La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2323](#) [*TOPS Honors Course Standards*]
- v. [La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2319](#) [*The Career Diploma*]
- vi. [La. Admin. Code tit. 28 § CXV-2363](#) [*Social Studies*]

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

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) develops state content standards for required subjects in the Louisiana public elementary and secondary schools with the recommendations and advice of public school and university Louisiana educators ([La. R.S. 17:24.4](#)).

In past revision cycles, including the most recent 2021-2022 cycle, the Louisiana BESE has appointed a Standards Review Committee and social studies expert sub-committees to write recommendations for statewide content standards; both committees consist of Louisiana educators, community members, and social studies scholars.

- i. For more information, see: ‘Social Studies Standards Review Process’ on the [Louisiana Academic Standards Review Committee web page](#)

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

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopt content standards ([La. R.S. 17:24.4](#)).

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

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

The Board consists of eleven members. Eight are elected while the remaining three members are appointed by the governor with consent of the Senate ([La. R.S. 17:1](#)).

b. How is the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education appointed?

The Superintendent of Education is appointed by a two-thirds vote of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education ([La. R.S. 17:21](#)).

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

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

In accordance with Louisiana's [Open Meetings Law](#), all committee meetings and hearings, including those concerning standards' review and revision must be advertised in advance and open to the public ([La. R.S. 17:24.4](#)). Thus, during a standards' revision cycle, all appointed social studies standards revision committees hold meetings accessible to the public.

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education holds public hearings in which members of the public can provide feedback and comment on proposed revisions to existing social studies standards.

All updates, committee agendas, drafts of proposed standards, and archived recordings of meetings, are uploaded and accessible to the public on [this Louisiana Department of Education web page](#)