

# Minnesota Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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The state of Minnesota regularly revises its statewide social studies standards on a ten-year cycle. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Minnesota public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the Minnesota State Commissioner of Education. As part of the standards revision process, the Commissioner appoints and selects the members of a Minnesota Social Studies Standards Review Committee; members must be parents, currently licensed and in-the-classroom teachers, licensed school administrators, school board members, university faculty teaching in social studies, Minnesota American Indian tribes, business and community members. This Committee is responsible for reviewing, revising, and re-writing statewide social studies standards which the Commissioner will then consider for adoption. 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 multiple public comment periods and public hearings.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Minnesota K-12 Academic Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted 2012]

**a. Website Location**

- i. [Minnesota Department of Education \(MDOE\) Website](#)

**b. Minnesota MDOE Social Studies Resources**

- i. [Minnesota Miscellaneous Social Studies Resources](#)

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

Minnesota Academic Standards Revision Schedule: Minnesota's academic standards are reviewed and revised on a 10-year cycle ([Minn. Stat. § 120B.021](#)).

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

**a. Minnesota Legislation**

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

**b. Minnesota Administrative Code**

- i. [Minn. Admin. Code 3500.0550](#) [*Inclusive Educational Program*]

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

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

The Minnesota Commissioner of Education directs the revision and adoption process for statewide social studies standards; as part of this process, the Commissioner appoints a Minnesota Social Studies Standards Review Committee. This Committee is responsible for reviewing, revising, and re-writing statewide social studies standards ([Minn. Stat. § 120B.021](#)).

Any Minnesotan can apply to be considered for membership but in accordance with [Minn. Stat. § 120B.021](#), the committee must represent parents, currently licensed and in-the-classroom teachers, licensed school administrators, school board members, university faculty teaching in social studies, Minnesota American Indian tribes, business and community members.

i. For more information, see:

1. [Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards Development Process \(WORD doc\)](#)
2. [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Information Page](#)
3. [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Review Questions and Answers \(pdf\)](#)

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

Statewide academic standards are reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education. After this approval, standards undergo a 12–24 month process in order to be adopted into Minnesotan administrative rule ([Minn. Stat. § 120B.021](#)).

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

***a. How are the members of the Minnesota Social Studies Standards Review Committee appointed?***

Minnesotans apply to be considered for membership on the Social Studies Standards Review Committee; the State Commissioner of Education is responsible for selecting committee members from the pool of applicants.

i. For more information, see:

1. [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Review Questions and Answers \(pdf\)](#) (pg 1)
2. [Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards Development Process \(WORD doc\)](#)

***b. How is the Minnesota State Commissioner of Education appointed?***

The Commissioner is appointed by the governor with the consent of the Minnesota Senate ([Minn. Stat. §15.06](#)).

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

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

After the initial draft of revised social standards is developed by the Social Studies Standards Review Committee, it is posted on the Minnesota [Department of Education website](#). This draft contains proposed revisions to existing Minnesota social studies standards. Public input on this draft is then collected through online comments, meetings with stakeholder groups, and town hall meetings held across the state; this public feedback will inform the development of the second draft.

***b.*** After reviewing public comment and revising the first draft accordingly, the Standards Review Committee releases draft standards for a second time, with the invitation to provide feedback online and in some cases at additional meetings of stakeholders and town halls; any updates on future public comment periods and meetings as well as the standards' revision process are listed on the [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Information Page](#).

i. For more information, see:

1. [Frequently Asked Questions about Minnesota's K-12 Academic Standards](#) (pg. 4–6)
2. [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Review Questions and Answers](#)

***c.*** When the third draft of revised social studies standards is released on the Department website, the initial review and revision work of the Social Studies Standards Review Committee is complete, and the statutory rulemaking process for the standards begins.

- i. The first step of that process is publishing a “Request for Comments” in the Minnesota Register.
- ii. A 60-day public comment period on the proposed standards (not including supporting benchmarks, pursuant to [Minn. Stat. §120B.023](#)) follows the publishing of the request. All public comments must be submitted to the [Office of Administrative Hearings e-comments website](#).
- iii. The Minnesota Department of Education will review the comments submitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings during this 60-day public comment period.
  - iv. For more information, see:
    1. [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Information Page](#)
    2. [Minnesota DOE Social Studies Standards Rulemaking Information Page](#)