

Nebraska Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Nebraska regularly revises its statewide social studies standards every seven years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Nebraska public schools. During a standards' revision cycle, the Nebraska Department of Education assembles social studies standards writing teams. Members are Nebraska educators from all stages of the state's educational system and representatives from the regional Educational Service Units (ESUs) can apply for membership via a public application process which the Department oversees. These teams are responsible for reviewing and writing recommendations for social studies standards which are then considered by the Nebraska State Board of Education for final adoption. Before the final adoption of standards takes place, however, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to existing social studies standards through public comment periods and public State Board of Education meetings concerning standards revision.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Nebraska K-12 Social Studies Standards](#)

a. Website Location

- i. [Nebraska Department of Education \(NDE\) Website](#)

b. Nebraska Miscellaneous Social Studies Resources

- i. [Nebraska Social Studies Resources and Information Page](#)
- ii. [Nebraska Social Studies Standards Instructional Tool \(SIT\)](#)
- iii. [Nebraska Social Studies Instructional frameworks](#)

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

Nebraska Academic Standards Revision Schedule: The State Board of Education is required to review and update standards for each subject area every seven years ([Nebraska Revised Statute 79-760.01](#)).

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

a. Nebraska Legislation

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Neb Rev. Stat. §79-729](#) [*High school students; graduation requirements*]

b. Nebraska Department of Education Administrative Code

- i. [92 Neb. Admin. Code, ch. 10, § 004 \(004.01F\)](#) [*Curriculum and Standards*]
- ii. [92 Neb. Admin. Code, ch. 10, § 004 \(004.02A3\)](#) [*Curriculum and Standards*]
- iii. [92 Neb. Admin. Code, chap. 10, § 004 \(004.03A4\)](#) [*Curriculum and Standards*]
- iv. [92 Neb. Admin. Code, chap. 10, § 004 \(004.04B2\)](#) [*Curriculum and Standards*]
- v. [92 Neb. Admin. Code, ch. 10, § 003 \(003.05\)](#) [*Mandatory Requirements for Legal Operation*]
- vi. [92 Neb. Admin. Code, ch. 10, § 003 \(003.12\)](#) [*Mandatory Requirements for Legal Operation*]

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

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

The writing process for Nebraska’s social studies standards is collaborative, conducted by writing teams whose members range from expert Nebraska educators from all stages of the state’s educational system and representatives from the regional Educational Service Units (ESUs). The Nebraska Department of Education oversees the application and selection process for the members of these writing teams. Those interested in participating complete an application and submitted applications are reviewed by the NDE staff.

- i. For more information, see: [NDE Standards Revision Information Page](#)

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

The Nebraska State Board of Education adopts Nebraska’s social studies standards ([Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-760.01](#)).

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

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

The Nebraska State Board of Education is composed of eight members who are elected on a nonpartisan ballot to serve 4 four year terms ([Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-310](#); [Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-511](#)).

b. How is the Nebraska State Commissioner of Education appointed?

The Commissioner of Education is appointed by the State Board of Education ([Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-301](#)).

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

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

During a standards revision cycle, drafts of Nebraska’s proposed social studies standards are posted onto the Nebraska Department of Education website such as in 2019 where any public comments or input can be received at nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov.

- i. See: [2019 Drafts of Proposed Revisions to Nebraska Social Studies Standards](#)

Members of the general public have the opportunity to provide further feedback to proposed revisions to social studies standards at State Board of Education meetings. With the exception of some closed sessions in accordance with the [Open Meetings Act](#), the general public in Nebraska can attend all periodical meetings of the State Board of Education ([Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-317](#)); nearly every regular meeting of the State Board contains an up to two hour public comment period in which any person can address the State Board on relevant items including any subject covered in the agenda ([Nebraska State Board Bylaw B9](#)).

Before any State Board meeting takes place, the Board sends publicized notice of the time and place the meeting at least five days in advance by providing a copy of the notice on the Department's Internet website and an e-mailed copy of the notice to each member of the news media requesting notification ([Nebraska State Board Bylaw B5](#)); all upcoming State Board of Education meetings and meeting agendas are announced and stored on the [Nebraska State Board of Education Website](#).

- ii. Any questions can be directed to:

[Ebony McKiver](#),

Social Studies Education Specialist,

Nebraska Department of Education