

# New Jersey Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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The state of New Jersey regularly revises its statewide social studies standards every five years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all New Jersey public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the New Jersey State Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner convenes an advisory panel of public school educators, higher education representatives, business representatives, and other New Jersey citizens, to review and, if necessary, to recommend modifications to statewide academic standards. Once standards are revised, the Commissioner submits the standards to the New Jersey State Board of Education to consider for 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 hearings and the public State Board of Education meeting in which the Commissioner presents revised social studies standards for adoption.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[New Jersey K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted June 3, 2020]

**a. Website Location**

- i. [New Jersey Department of Education \(NJDE\) Website](#)

**b. New Jersey DOE Social Studies Resources**

- i. [New Jersey DOE Social Studies Standards Information Page](#)
- ii. [New Jersey DOE Diversity Sample Activities and Lessons](#)
- iii. [New Jersey DOE Culturally Responsive Practices](#)

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

New Jersey Academic Standards Revision Schedule: The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) are reviewed and revised every five years ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1](#)).

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

**a. New Jersey Legislation**

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

**b. New Jersey Education Code**

- i. [N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1](#) [*Graduation Requirements*]
- ii. [N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1](#) [(*Standards and Assessment*) – *Purpose*]
- iii. [N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1](#) [*Curriculum and instruction*]

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

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

During a standards revision cycle, the New Jersey State Commissioner of Education convenes an advisory panel of public school educators, higher education representatives, business representatives, and other New Jersey citizens, to review and, if necessary, to recommend modifications to statewide academic standards ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1](#)); this is

- i. Any questions can be directed to:

[Ashley Woolsey-Greene](#)

Social Studies Coordinator

New Jersey Department of Education

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

The New Jersey State Board of Education adopts statewide social studies standards ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1](#)).

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

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

The 13 members of the Board are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the New Jersey State Senate ([N.J. Stat. §18A:4-4](#)).

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

The Commissioner is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the New Jersey State Senate ([N.J. Stat. §18A:4-21](#)).

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

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

In accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1](#), after the Commissioner's panel has completed writing any recommended revisions to New Jersey's existing social studies standards, the Commissioner presents the recommended revisions to the State Board for consideration at a public meeting; advanced notices of this meeting are published in the [New Jersey Register](#).

After considering the Commissioner's recommended revisions at this meeting, the State Board conducts public hearings to allow for public feedback on the revisions; dates, times, and locations are also announced in the [New Jersey Register](#) ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1](#)).

Additional opportunities for public input beyond the ones listed are determined and announced with each standards' revision cycle.

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