

New Mexico Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of New Mexico periodically revises its statewide social studies standards. These standards govern social studies instruction in all New Mexico public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED); the NMPED calls for New Mexico K-12 educators to participate on writing committees which assist the Department in reviewing New Mexico's existing social studies standards and drafting new standards. The New Mexico Public Education Department is also responsible for adopting statewide academic standards. Before 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 a 45-day public comment period and a NMPED public hearing.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[New Mexico K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted February 2022]

a. Website Location

- i. [New Mexico Public Education Department \(NMPED\) Website](#)

b. New Mexico PED Social Studies Resources

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

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

New Mexico Social Studies Standards Revision Process: New Mexico’s statutory code does not indicate a mandatory academic standards schedule that requires the Public Education Department of Education to review and revise standards every certain number of years

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

a. New Mexico Legislation

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [NMSA § 22-23A-2](#) [*Purpose of (Indian Education) act*]
- iii. [NMSA § 22-23A-5](#) [*Indian education division; created; assistant secretary; duties*]
- iv. [NMSA § 22-23-4](#) [*Department; powers; duties (Bilingual Multicultural Education Act)*]

b. New Mexico Administrative Code: Primary and Secondary Education

- i. [NMAC 6.10.2.8](#) [*Governing the United States Flag and Pledge of Allegiance*]
- ii. [NMAC 6.29.1.11](#) [*Program Requirements*]
- iii. [NMAC 6.32.2.12](#) [*Program Element – Instruction (Multicultural Education Act)*]

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

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

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) prescribes statewide academic standards and convenes the standards’ writing process ([NMSA § 22-2-8](#)); the Department calls for New Mexico K-12 educators to participate on writing committees appointed by the Department.

- i. See:
 1. [New Mexico Social Studies FAQ web page](#)
 2. [New Mexico Social Studies Standards 2021 Revision Process and Resources Information Page](#)

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

In accordance with [NMSA § 22-2-2](#), the New Mexico Public Education Department adopts statewide social standards as a rule and publishes them in the New Mexico Administrative Code ([NMAC 6.29.11](#)).

- i. For more information, see:
 1. [New Mexico Social Studies FAQ web page](#)
 2. [New Mexico Social Studies Standards 2021 Revision Process and Resources Information Page](#)

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

a. How is the New Mexico State Secretary of Education appointed?

The State Secretary of Education is appointed by the governor of New Mexico and confirmed by the New Mexico State Senate ([New Mexico Constitution Art. XII, § 6](#)).

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

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

The New Mexico Public Education Department offers multiple opportunities for the public to offer input during its standards revision process:

- i. Drafts of revised social studies standards are posted on the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) website.

- ii. Before final adoption of revised standards takes place, proposed revisions to existing social studies standards are submitted to the *New Mexico Register* in order to begin the rulemaking process. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is posted on the [New Mexico PED Public Notice web page](#), thus beginning a 45-day formal public comment period in which members of the general public can submit feedback to proposed revisions.

- iii. Finally, during a revision cycle, the Public Education Department holds a public hearing, also announced on the [New Mexico PED Public Notice web page](#), where members of the public can offer written or verbal comment; the educator writing committee chosen during that particular revision cycle will then reconvene to develop revisions to draft based on previous public comment.
 1. For more information, see:
 - a. [New Mexico Social Studies FAQ web page](#)

 - b. [New Mexico Social Studies Standards 2021 Revision Process and Resources Information Page](#)