

North Dakota Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of North Dakota regularly revises its statewide social studies standards, typically on a 5–7 year timeframe. These standards govern social studies instruction in all North Dakota public schools. The revision of statewide standards is a process that is directed by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). The NDDPI appoints a social studies standards writing committee and review team through an application process; members of the social studies standards writing committee are North Dakota educators from every grade level, whereas members of the social studies standards review team can be educators or community members who are North Dakota residents. The writing committee and review are responsible for reviewing, revising, and updating statewide social studies standards. The North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for adopting statewide academic standards. However, before final adoption of standards takes place, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on drafts of proposed revisions to existing social studies standards through a Department-conducted public comment period.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

1. Current North Dakota social studies standards and their current website location

[North Dakota K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted in August 2019]

a. Website Location

- i. [North Dakota Department of Public Instruction \(NDDPI\) Website](#)

b. North Dakota Miscellaneous Social Studies Resources

- i. [North Dakota Indian Education Information Page](#)
- ii. [North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings](#) [Adopted 2015]
- iii. [North Dakota Department of Public Instruction’s Teachings of our Elders Website](#))

2. How often North Dakota is required to review and revise its social studies standards?

North Dakota Academic Standards Revision Schedule: According to North Dakota’s 2017 Content Standards Developmental Protocols, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction is required to create a revision schedule for all subjects, which generally follows a five-to-seven year review cycle; “Consideration for an appropriate review cycle will be dependent on certain factors, including the time period since a content area’s previous revision, the emergence of any national- or research-based guideline documents that may require particular attention, the availability of sufficient state or other funding, emerging statewide interest in reviewing existing content standards, or other unique circumstances that compel a need for review or revision.”

- a.** Any questions can be addressed to:

[Davonne Eldredge](#),

Assistant Director at the NDDPI

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

a. North Dakota Legislation

- i. See: [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-21-02.5](#) [*North Dakota academic scholarship*] (Repealed Effective 7/31/2024)
- iii. [N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-21-02.2](#) [*High school graduation - Minimum requirements*] (Effective 8/1/2025)
- iv. [N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-21-05](#) [*Indian education curriculum*]
- v. [N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-21-05.1](#) [*Curriculum - Critical race theory - Prohibited*]
- vi. [N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-21-21](#) [*Concepts of personal finance - Inclusion in curriculum*]

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

a. Which agency writes North Dakota’s social studies standards?

The social studies standards revision process is directed by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI); the NDDPI assembles a social studies standards writing committee and review team in order to review, revise, and update statewide social studies standards.

- i. Members of the social studies standards writing committee are North Dakota educators from every grade level
- ii. Members of the social studies standards review team can be educators or community members who are North Dakota residents.

1. Any questions can be addressed to:

[Davonne Eldredge](#),

Assistant Director at the NDDPI

b. Which agency approves North Dakota’s social studies standards?

The Superintendent of Public Instruction approves North Dakota’s social studies standards ([N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-21](#)).

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

a. How are the members of the social studies standards and writing teams appointed?

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction selects the members of the standards writing committee through an application review process during which a team of NDDPI personnel reviews applications. Applications are posted under the Social Studies K-12 menu in the K-12 [Education Content Standards page](#) on the NDDPI's website. Once completed, these applications are emailed to dpiacademicsupp@nd.gov.

b. How is the North Dakota State appointed?

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is elected to serve 4 year terms during presidential election years ([N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-02-01](#)).

6. What opportunity North Dakota 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 social studie standards' revision cycle, the Department of Public Instruction solicits public input by posting North Dakota's social studies standards writing committee's initial draft along with a comment survey on the NDDPI Content Standards page.

After receiving feedback, another panel of representatives from the public and educators, provide additional review before proposed social studies standards are adopted.

- i. To see more information on this process, see: The Superintendent’s foreword of [North Dakota K-12 Social Studies Standards](#).

- ii. Any questions can be addressed to:
[Davonne Eldredge](#),
Assistant Director at the NDDPI