

# Oklahoma Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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The state of Oklahoma regularly revises its statewide social studies standards every six years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Oklahoma public schools. The revision of statewide standards is a process that is directed by the Oklahoma Department of Education (OSDE); through a public application process, the Department selects social studies educators, community members, and other stakeholders to serve on standards review and revision committees. These committees are responsible for writing recommendations for social studies standards which the Oklahoma State Board of Education (OSBE) considers for adoption. After adopting a set of standards, the Board submits standards to the Oklahoma Legislature for final approval. Before the final approval of standards takes place, however, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to social studies standards through an online 30-day public comment period on drafts of the standards, Department-conducted community focus groups where members are asked to provide further feedback, and a public State Board of Education meeting during which the vote for adoption takes place.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Oklahoma K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted February 28, 2019]

**a. Website Location**

- i. [Oklahoma State Department of Education \(OSDE\) Website](#)

**b. Oklahoma Miscellaneous Social Studies Resources**

- i. [Oklahoma SDE Social Studies Information and Resources Page](#)
- ii. [Oklahoma Social Studies Frameworks](#)

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

Oklahoma content standard revision schedule: The State Board reviews academic standards every six years and can adopt any revisions in such subject matter standards if it is deemed necessary to do so ([Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 11-103.6a](#)).

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

**a. Oklahoma Legislation**

- i. See: [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Okla. Stat. tit. 70 §11-103.6h](#) [*Passport to Financial Literacy Act - Areas of instruction - Graduation requirement - Duties of Department of Education - Transfer students*]
- iii. [Okla. Stat. tit. 70 §24-157](#) [*Mandatory gender or sexual diversity training or counseling prohibited – Certain race- or sex-based concepts prohibited from courses*]

iv. [Okla. Stat. tit. 70 §1210.252](#) [*Economic education*]

v. [Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 1210.253](#) [*Purpose of Act*]

vi. [Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 1210.254](#) [*Administration of Act*]

vii. [Okla. Stat. tit. 70 § 1210.255](#) [Implementation]

**b. Oklahoma Administrative Code**

i. [Okla. Admin. Code § 210:15-33-2](#) [*Celebrate Freedom Week requirements*]

ii. [Okla. Admin. Code § 210:10-1-23](#) [*Prohibition of race and sex discrimination*]  
– (Effective until 9/14/2022)

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

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

The Oklahoma Department of Education (OSDE) directs the standards’ writing and revision process; the Department selects social studies educators, community members, and other stakeholders to serve on one of three standards review and revision committees through an application process. Any member of the public can apply for committee membership. The three committees are as follows:

- i. **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee works with the Oklahoma State Department of Education social studies Directors to outline goals for the social studies standards revision process, facilitate discussion during writing and draft review team meetings, and assist in the final draft review of the standards.

- ii. **Writing Committee:** The Writing Committee reviews and, if necessary, revises Oklahoma’s social studies standards. Members of the Committee range from community members to PreK-12 and university educators; members are selected by the Executive Committee members and OSDE through an application process.
  
- iii. **Draft Review Committee:** This Committee is responsible for collaboratively reviewing and providing feedback on the Writing Committee’s revisions. The intended role of the Draft Review Committee is to “provide an additional lens for equity, clarity, and coherence.” Like members of the Writing Committee, members of the Draft Review Committee are also selected by the Executive Committee and OSDE through an application process and range from community members to Pre-K–12 and university educators.
  1. For more information, see: [Oklahoma Standards Revision Process Information Page](#)
  
  2. Any questions can be directed to:  
[Brenda M. Beymer-Chapman](#), J.D.  
Director of Social Studies Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
Oklahoma State Department of Education

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

The Oklahoma State Board of Education reviews and adopts the statewide social studies standards ([70 O.S. § 11-103.6a](#)).

**c. Which agency approves Oklahoma’s social studies standards?**

After adopting a set of academic standards, the State Board of Education submits them to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (or a designee and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate). The Legislature is then responsible for approving, amending, or disapproving adopted standards in whole or in part ([70 OK Stat § 70-11-103.6a-1](#)).

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

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

The Board consists of seven members, six of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, serving staggered, overlapping six-year terms. The seventh member is the elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction ([Okla. Admin. Code § 210:1-1-3](#)).

***b. How is the Oklahoma State appointed?***

Answer: The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is elected for a four-year term, serves as a voting member of board and is its President ([Oklahoma Constitution, Article VI, §1](#)).

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

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

After completing the initial review process, the Oklahoma Department of Education uploads drafts of revised standards on its website and initiates a 30-day public comment period during which the public can review and comment on proposed standards; written comments are accepted via email.

The Department solicits further public feedback by hosting various focus group opportunities for school district and community representatives to provide input on the standards.

The revised standards are considered and must be approved by the State Board of Education at a public meeting before being submitted to the full Legislature. Members of the public have the opportunity to offer verbal comment on standards during the public comment portion of this Board meeting; all Board meeting notices, dates, locations, and agendas are provided on the [Oklahoma State Board of Education Web Page](#).

- i. Any questions can be directed to:  
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