

# South Carolina Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

---

The state of South Carolina periodically revises its statewide Social Studies College-and Career-Ready Standards every seven years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all South Carolina public schools. The revision of statewide standards is a process that is directed by the South Carolina Department of Education. Via a public application process, the Department appoints a team of South Carolina classroom teachers, instructional coaches, district leaders, representatives of professional organizations, community members, parents, and higher education faculty. This team is responsible for reviewing and writing Social Studies College-and Career-Ready Standards; when they have completed review and revision, a report on the recommended revisions is presented to the Education Oversight Committee and the State Board of Education for consideration of adoption. Before the final adoption of standards takes place, however, the Department of Education invites the general public to review and comment on drafts of proposed revisions to existing social studies standards in public comment periods.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[South Carolina K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted in 2019]

**a. Website Location**

- i. [South Carolina Department of Education \(SCDOE\) Website](#)

**b. South Carolina Social Studies Resources**

- i. [SCDOE Instructional Resources](#)

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

South Carolina Academic Standards Revision Schedule: The North Carolina State Board of Education is required to review academic standards every 7 years ([S.C. Code Unann. § 59-18-350](#)).

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

**a. South Carolina Legislation**

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-18-300](#) [*Adoption of educational standards in core academic areas*]
- iii. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-18-310](#) [*Development or adoption of statewide assessment program to promote student learning and measure student performance*]

- iv. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-18-325](#) [*College entrance and career readiness assessments; summative assessments*]
- v. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-29-410](#) [*Development of high school financial literacy programs; areas of instruction*]
- vi. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-29-165](#) [*Instruction in personal finance*]
- vii. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-65-40](#) [*Homeschooling programs*]
- viii. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-65-45](#) [*Alternative home schooling requirements*]
- ix. [S.C. Code Ann. §59-65-47](#) [*Associations for home schools; requirements*]

**b. South Carolina State Board of Education Code of Regulations**

- i. [S.C. Code Regs. 43-234](#) [*Defined Program, Grades 9-12 and Graduation Requirements*]
- ii. [S.C. Code Regs. 43-231](#) [*Defined Program K-5*]
- iii. [S.C. Code Regs. 43-232](#) [*Defined Program 6-8*]

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

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

The South Carolina Education Oversight Commission and State Department of Education are responsible for jointly conducting the cyclical review of South Carolina’s statewide social studies standards ([S.C. Code Ann. §59-18-350](#)).

During a social studies standards' revision cycle, the Department either appoints a state team (which may include experts in social studies as well in testing, special education (students with disabilities), ELLs, and/or early childhood education) via an application process, or identifies an external organization to develop a draft of new standards.

The Education Oversight Committee appoints three external review panels:

- i. The first panel is composed of national educators and/or education groups and including experts in testing
- ii. The second consists of South Carolina parents, community leaders, and business leaders
- iii. The third is composed of South Carolina special education teachers and teachers of ELLs.
- iv. For more information, see:
  1. [South Carolina DOE Procedures for Cyclical Review of Statewide Academic Standards \(pdf\)](#) (pg 9)
    - a. This pdf file was provided by the South Carolina DOE K-12 Social Studies Education Associate and USSYP Program Coordinator, [Stephen Corsini](#)
  2. [South Carolina K-12 Social Studies Standards](#)

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

The South Carolina State Board of Education adopts academic standards ([S.C. Code Ann. §59-18-300](#)); adoption cannot take place however without the approval by a Joint Resolution of the South Carolina General Assembly ([S.C. Code Unnan. §59-18-355](#)).

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

***a. How are the members of the Education Oversight Committee appointed?***

The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) is an independent, nonpartisan group composed of 18 educators, business people, and elected officials who have been appointed by the legislature and governor in accordance with [S.C. Code Unann. §59-6-10](#)).

- i. For more information, see: [South Carolina Education Oversight Committee Website](#)

Pursuant to [S.C. Code Unann. §59-6-10](#), the members of the Education Oversight Committee are:

- ii. The Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives or his designee;
- iii. The President of the South Carolina Senate or his designee;
- iv. The Chairman of the Education and Public Works Committee of the House of Representatives or his designee;
- v. The Chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate or his designee;

- vi. The Governor or his designee;
- vii. The Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives or his designee;
- viii. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate or his designee;
- ix. The South Carolina State Superintendent of Education or the superintendent's designee who shall be an ex officio non voting member;
- x. Five members representing business and industry who must have experience in business, management, or policy to be appointed respectively by the governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee in accordance with [S.C. Code Unann. §59-6-10](#)
- xi. Five members representing public education teachers and principals who appointed respectively by the governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee in accordance with [S.C. Code Unann. §59-6-10](#)

***b. How are the members of the South Carolina State Board of Education appointed?***

South Carolina's State Board of Education is made up of 17 members; One member is appointed by the Governor, the remaining 16 are elected by legislators in the state's 16 judicial districts ([S.C. Code Unann. §59-5-10](#)).

***c. How is the South Carolina State Superintendent of Education appointed?***

The Superintendent of Education is elected every 4 years during general elections ([S.C. Code Ann. §59-3-10](#)).

**6. What opportunity South Carolina 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, the South Carolina Department of Education issues statewide communication memos announcing and detailing information regarding standards review, writing, committee applications, field review, and State Board and EOC standards presentations; all revision cycles afford the general public in South Carolina multiple opportunities to provide input during the standards' revision process.

First, members of the social studies writing team are selected from the public by submitting their interest in filling out a publicly distributed application for the South Carolina Department of Education.

The South Carolina Department of Education later invites public input on drafts of proposed South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards; drafts are posted online via the South Carolina Department of Education's website and remain there for a period of field (public) review and comment.

Comments and feedback received from this public review are then utilized by the South Carolina standards writing team to revise drafts before they are submitted to the State Board of Education for final approval.

Finally, after existing social studies standards have been revised, the public has the opportunity to attend open, public meetings in which drafts of the proposed revisions to standards are presented to the State Board of Education and to the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.

- i. For more information, see: [South Carolina K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) (pg )
- ii. Any questions can be directed to:

[Stephen Corsini](#)

K-12 Social Studies Education Associate

South Carolina USSYP Program Coordinator