

Texas Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Texas regularly revises its statewide social studies standards, known as Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The TEKS standards govern social studies instruction in all Texas public schools. The Texas State Board of Education nominates Texas residents, educators, parents, business and industry representatives to serve on social studies TEKS work groups. The Texas Education Agency considers these nominations but has final authority over the choice of work group members. The work groups are responsible for writing recommendations for TEKS in social studies and then presenting them to the State Board for final adoption. Before adoption takes place, however, the general public may review and comment on the proposed revisions to existing social studies TEKS via public hearings and a 30-day online public comment period.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

1. Current Texas social studies Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and their current website location

a. Website Location

- i. [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) Website](#)

b. K-8 Social Studies Standards [Adopted 2018]

- i. [Texas Kindergarten Social Studies TEKS](#)
- ii. [Texas Grade 1 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- iii. [Texas Grade 2 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- iv. [Texas Grade 3 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- v. [Texas Grade 4 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- vi. [Texas Grade 5 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- vii. [Texas Grade 6 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- viii. [Texas Grade 7 Social Studies TEKS](#)
- ix. [Texas Grade 8 Social Studies TEKS](#)

c. 9-12 Social Studies Standards

- i. [Texas Grade 12 Economics TEKS](#) [Adopted 2018]
- ii. [Texas Grade 9-12 US History Since 1877 TEKS](#)[Adopted 2018]
- iii. [Texas Grade 9-12 World History TEKS](#) [Adopted 2018]
- iv. [Texas Grade 9-12 World Geography TEKS](#) [Adopted 2018]
- v. [Texas Grade 9-12 US Government TEKS](#)[Adopted 2018]
- vi. [Texas Grade 9-12 Psychology TEKS](#) [Adopted August 23, 2010]
- vii. [Texas Grade 9-12 Sociology TEKS](#) [Adopted August 23, 2010]

d. 9-12 Elective Social Studies Courses

- i. [Texas Grade 9-12 Special Topics in Social Studies TEKS](#) [Adopted August 23, 2010]
- ii. [Texas Grade 9-12 Social Studies Research Methods TEKS](#) [Adopted August 23, 2010]
- iii. [Texas Grade 10-12 Personal Financial Literacy TEKS](#) [Adopted 2016]
- iv. [Texas Grade 10-12 Ethnic Studies: Mexican-American Studies TEKS](#) [Adopted July 1, 2019]
- v. [Texas Grade 10-12 Ethnic Studies: African American Studies TEKS](#) [Adopted April 17, 2020]
- vi. [Texas Grade 9-12 Advanced Social Studies TEKS](#) [Adopted August 1, 2020]
- vii. [Texas Grade 9-12 Advanced Economics TEKS](#) [Adopted August 1, 2020]

e. Texas Social Studies Resources

- i. [Texas TEKS in Social Studies Information Page](#)
- ii. [Texas Social Studies Crosswalks](#)

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

[Texas Content Standards Revision Schedule](#): Texas revises its standards, or TEKS, (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), in a four year process that is scheduled on a [six year cycle](#).

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

a. **Texas Legislation:**

- i. [H.B. 1057](#) [Victims of Communism Day]
 1. [Victims of Communism Memorial Day Website](#)

b. **Texas Education Code**

- i. See: [NAS State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Texas Education Code §28.0022](#) [*Certain Instructional Requirements And Prohibitions*]
- iii. [Texas Education Code §28.011](#) [*Elective Course on the Bible's Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament and their impact on the history and literature of Western Civilization*]

c. **Texas Administrative Code**

- i. [Texas Admin. Code §74.1](#) [*Essential Knowledge and Skills*]
- ii. [Texas Admin. Code §74.2](#) [*Description of a Required Elementary Curriculum*]
- iii. [Texas Admin. Code §74.3](#) [*Description of a Required Secondary Curriculum*]
- iv. [Texas Admin. Code §74.12](#) [*Foundation High School Program*]
- v. [Texas Admin. Code §101.3022](#) [*Assessment Requirements for Graduation*]

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

a. Which agency writes Texas' social studies standards?

The Texas State Board of Education periodically reviews and revises the TEKS for each subject area. During each social studies TEKS review cycle, the SBOE nominates educators, parents, business and industry representatives to potentially serve on social studies TEKS “streamlining work groups” which write recommendations for TEKS in social studies and present them to the SBOE ([Texas Education Code §28.002](#)) for approval. The Texas Education Agency is responsible for considering SBE nominations, then assembling finalized work groups. Any Texas resident can apply to be considered for membership in these groups ([Texas Admin. Code §66.30](#)); the application is posted on the TEA website.

1. For more information, see:

- a. [TEKS Social Studies Streamlining Groups Information Page](#)
- b. [TEKS Review and Revision Information Page](#)
- c. [Most Recent SBE Action in 2021 TEKS Revision Cycle](#)

2. Any questions can be directed to:

The [Texas Curriculum Standards and Student Support Division](#),
Texas Education Agency

b. Which agency adopts Texas' social studies standards?

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each subject of the required curriculum including in social studies ([Texas Education Code §7.102](#)).

5. **The relationship between the Texas Education Agency, Board of Education and public during a standards' revision cycle**

a. How are the members of the Board of Education appointed?

The 15 members of the Texas State Board of Education are popularly elected from Texas' 15 education districts ([Texas Education Code §7.101](#)).

b. How is the Texas State Education Commissioner appointed?

With the advice and consent of the senate, the governor appoints the Texas Commissioner of Education ([Texas Education Code §7.051](#)).

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

a. Where does public input occur during the revision process?

- i. At the onset of a revision cycle, the TEA posts an application for membership on the TEKS streamlining work groups, notifies the public of the review cycle with proposed timelines, and provides a survey for the purposes of receiving public feedback on current TEKS for social studies standards on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website.

See: [Most Recent Texas State Board of Education Action in 2021 Revision Cycle](#)

- ii. The Texas State Board of Education holds public meetings during revision cycles ([Texas Admin. Code §66.42](#)); those who cannot be physically present can still observe Board meetings as every open meeting held by the Board is required to be broadcast live by the Texas Education Agency. Furthermore, all archived recordings of Board meetings are kept and saved on the TEA website, along with all Board upcoming meeting dates, archived and current meeting agendas on this SBE Agenda Meeting ([Texas Education Code §7.106](#)).

- iii. Finally, an official 30-day public comment process is conducted on the TEA website in the [SBE Proposed Rules web page](#) after the SBOE approves the standards for the first reading and filing authorization, and the standards have been posted in the *Texas Register*.

To better understand the chronology of the TEKS revision process and public involvement throughout, see: [2018 Texas TEKS Review and Revision Process](#)