

Utah Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Utah revises its statewide social studies standards according to a standards revision schedule released by the Utah State Board of Education. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Utah public schools. Standards are reviewed and revised by the Utah Standards Review Committee. The Committee is responsible for writing recommendations for social studies standards and then presenting them to the State Board for final adoption. The Committee is established by the Utah State Board of Education and consists of Utah teachers, business representatives, and university faculty, as well as Utah public school parents; members are appointed by the State Board of Education Chair, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Utah State Senate. Before the 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 90-day public comment period and three public hearings.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

1. Current Utah social studies standards and their current website location

a. Utah Social Studies Standards According to Grade Band

- i. [Utah K-2 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted August 2010]
- ii. [Utah Grades 3-6 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted August 2010]
- iii. [Utah Grades 7-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted December 2016; Revised September 2016]

b. Website Location

- i. [Utah State Board of Education \(USBE\) Website](#)

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

[Utah Core Standards Revision Timeline](#): Utah does not have a continual standards' revision schedule mandated by law; instead, in accordance with [Utah Code Ann. §53E-1-203](#), the Utah State Board of Education must adopt standards revision timelines and make them available on the [Utah State Board of Education Website](#). A review of Utah's academic standards occurs when either the Board-adopted standards revision timeline or revision checklist are adhered to or a legislative mandate calls for revision of the state's core standards. Under Utah's [current revision timeline](#), social studies standards are scheduled for review and revision from 2026-2027 and adoption from 2027-2028.

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

a. Utah Legislation

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [H. B. 116](#) [*Victims of Communism Day*]
 1. [Victims of Communism Memorial Day Website](#)
- iii. [Utah Code Ann. §53E-4-204.1](#) [*Ethnic studies core standards and curriculum requirements*]
- iv. [Utah Code Ann. §53G-10-202](#) [*Maintaining constitutional freedom in the public schools*]

b. Utah Administrative Code

- i. [Utah Admin. Code §277-469-6](#) [*Criteria for Recommendation of Instructional Materials Following Mid-Party Evaluation of Core Curriculum*]
- ii. [Utah Admin. Code §277-475-3](#) [*Patriotic, Civic and Character Education*]
- iii. [Utah Admin. Code §277-475-4](#) [*School Responsibilities and Required Instruction*]
- iv. [Utah Admin. Code §277-475-5](#) [*Parental Notice of Pledge of Allegiance*]
- v. [Utah Admin. Code §277-700-4](#) [*Elementary Education Requirements*]
- vi. [Utah Admin. Code §277-700-5](#) [*Middle School Education Requirements*]
- vii. [Utah Admin. Code §277-700-6](#) [*High School Requirements*]
- viii. [Utah Admin. Code §277-704-3](#) [*General Financial Literacy End of Course Assessment*]
- ix. [Utah Admin. Code §277-704-5](#) [*Financial and Economic Literacy Professional Development Opportunities*]
- x. [Utah Admin. Code §277-705-6](#) [*Career Development Credentials*]
- xi. [Utah Admin. Code §277-476-3](#) [*Civics Project Requirements-Eligibility and Application*]
- xii. [Utah Admin. Code §277-476-4](#) [*Performance Measures and Reporting*]

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

a. Which agency writes Utah’s social studies standards?

The Utah Standards Review Committee evaluates and recommends revisions for Utah’s social studies standards to the State Board of Education ([Utah Code Ann. §53E-4-203](#)). The Committee consists of social studies experts including Utah teachers, business representatives, and university faculty, as well as Utah public school parents; members are appointed by the State Board of Education Chair, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Utah State Senate in accordance with [Utah Code Ann. §53E-4-203](#).

- i. For more information, see: [USBE Policy 3002 \[Core Standards Revision Process\]](#)

b. How are the members of the Utah Standards Review Committee appointed?

The Standards Review Committee is established by the State Board of Education and is comprised of 17 individuals: seven with expertise in social studies, appointed by the state board chair, including teachers, business representatives, faculty of higher education institutions in Utah, and others as determined by the state board chair, five parents of public education students appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and an additional five parents appointed by the President of the Senate ([Utah Code Ann. §53E-4-203](#)).

c. Which agency adopts Utah’s social studies standards?

The Utah State Board of Education adopts Utah’s social studies standards ([Utah Code Ann. §53E-4-202](#)).

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

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

The board is composed of 15 members elected to serve four-year terms to represent one of the state's 15 education districts, whose borders are redrawn every 10 years ([Utah Code Ann. §20A-14-101.5](#); [Utah Code Ann. §20A-14-103](#)).

b. How is the Utah Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed?

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is appointed by the State Board of Education ([Utah Code Ann. §53E-3-301](#)).

6. What opportunity Utah 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?

Pursuant to [Utah Code Ann. §53E-4-202](#), before formally adopting core standards for Utah public schools, the state board must hold a public review period in which the board:

- i. Publicizes drafts of proposed revisions to existing social studies standards on the state board's website and the Utah Public Notice Website (created under [Utah Code Ann. §63A-16-601](#)).
- ii. Invites public comment on the drafts of proposed revisions for a period of not less than 90 days; and

- iii. Conducts three public hearings that are held in different regions of the state on the drafts for Utah public schools.
 1. For more information, see: [USBE Standards Revision Process](#)

In addition to accessing drafts of proposed revisions to social studies standards, the general public in Utah also have access to the state board’s annual report containing academic standards’ review, revision, development, and implementation timeline, made available on the board’s website ([Utah Code Ann. §53E-1-203](#)).

In accordance with [Utah Admin. Code §R277-101-3. \[Public Participation\]](#), members of the public can attend all Board meetings, (apart from those closed in accordance with [Utah Code Ann. §52-4-204](#)) and comment on any issue during the public comment portion of the meeting; the general public can see the Utah State Board of Education’s archived, current, and upcoming meeting calendars and agendas on the [Utah State Board of Education Meetings web page](#)