

Washington Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Washington periodically revises its statewide social studies standards. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Washington public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). During a social studies standards' revision cycle, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction appoints a Social Studies Cadre of Educators, academics, and social studies content specialists to assist in the review, development, and update of statewide social studies standards. Once standards have been written by the Office and the aforementioned groups, the OSPI votes whether to adopt revisions to social studies standards. Before this final adoption of standards takes place, however, the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on drafts of proposed revisions to existing social studies standards posted by the OSPI through public comment periods.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Washington K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted in September 17, 2019]

a. Website Location

- i. [Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) Website](#)

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

Washington Academic Standards Revision Schedule: Washington does not have a rigid standards' revision schedule which requires the state to revise its standards every certain number of years. The Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction is only required to “periodically” revise statewide academic standards ([Rev. Code Wash. §28A.655.070](#)).

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

a. Washington Legislation

- i. See: [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Rev. Code Wash. §392-410-120](#) [*Washington state history and government requirements*]
- iii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.112](#) [*Ethnic studies materials and resources*]
- iv. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.115](#) [*Holocaust instruction—Preparation and availability of instructional materials*]

- v. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.116](#) [*Holocaust instruction—Teacher training*]
- vi. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.415.285](#) [*Expanded civics education teacher training program*]
- vii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.370](#) [*World War II oral history project*]
- viii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.375](#) [*Washington history day program*]
- ix. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.390](#) [*Kip Tokuda memorial Washington civil liberties public education program—Findings*]
- x. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.395](#) [*Kip Tokuda memorial Washington civil liberties public education program—Intent*]
- xi. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.405](#) [*Kip Tokuda memorial Washington civil liberties public education program—Created—Purpose*]
- xii. [Rev. Code. Wash. §28A.300.410](#) [*Kip Tokuda memorial Washington civil liberties public education program—Grants—Acceptance of gifts, grants, or endowments*]
- xiii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.444](#) [*Integration of environmental and sustainability content*]

- xiv. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.480](#) [*Civic education travel grant program*]

- xv. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.485](#) [*Enhanced civics education demonstration sites*]

- xvi. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.320.170](#) [*Curricula—Tribal history and culture*]

- xvii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.108](#) [*Tribal consultation training and schedule*]

- xviii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.469](#) [*State financial education learning standards*]

- xix. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.468](#) [*Financial education standards—Availability of materials*]

- xx. [Rev. Code Wash. §1.16.050](#) [*"Legal holidays" and "legislatively recognized days"—Unpaid holidays for employees with appointments or contracts of less than twelve consecutive months*]

- xxi. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.150.050](#) [*School holidays*]

- xxii. [Rev. Code Wash. §28A.230.090](#) [*High school graduation requirements or equivalencies—High school and beyond plans—Career and college ready graduation requirements and waivers—Reevaluation of graduation requirements—Language requirements—Credit for courses taken before attending high school—Postsecondary credit equivalencies*]

b. Washington State Board of Education Administrative Code

- i. [WAC 180-51-210](#) [*State subject and credit requirements for high school graduation*]
- ii. [WAC 392-401-020](#) [*Excused absences*]
- iii. [WAC 392-410-115](#) [*Mandatory areas of study in the common school*]
- iv. [WAC 392-410-120](#) [*Washington state history and government requirements*]

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

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

The Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is charged with developing the state's learning standards ([Rev. Code Wash. §28A.655.070](#)) and convening the process for their revision; OSPI works with the Washington Social Studies Cadre of Educators, as well as academics and content specialists selected by OSPI based on their expertise in social studies education, to review and update statewide social studies standards.

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

[Jerry L. Price](#), NBCT

Associate Director – Content, Social Studies

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

b. Which agency adopts Washington’s social studies standards?

The Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) adopts the state’s learning standards ([Rev. Code Wash. §28A.655.070](#))

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

a. How are the members of the Washington Social Studies Cadre of Educators appointed?

The Social Studies Cadre of Educators are teachers from each of Washington’s nine state Educational Service Districts (ESDs) who apply to serve on the Social Studies Cadre for three year terms. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Social Studies Department reviews all applications and selects Cadre members using a standardized selection process, which includes review by the Office of Native Education and other programs at OSPI.

- i. For more information about the Social Studies Cadre of Educators, see: [Social Studies Cadre of Educators Information Page](#)
- ii. Any questions can be directed to:
[Jerry L. Price](#), NBCT
Associate Director – Content, Social Studies
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

b. How is the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed?

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is popularly elected to 4 year terms ([Rev. Code Wash. §28A.300.010](#)).

6. What opportunity Washington 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?

During academic standards' revision cycles, the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction solicits public input by conducting public comment periods. OSPI posts a draft of proposed revisions to social studies standards, making it available for community feedback. Comments received from this public review period are considered by the OSPI prior to the final approval of standards.

Notice of a public comment period is announced through OSPI and FEPPP bulletins and sent to mailing lists across the state the Washington Parent-Teacher Association and Washington's nine Educational Service Districts. Public comment periods are also shared through the OSPI Bulletin process and posted on the OSPI and FEPPP social media sites and websites.

- i. See: [Financial Education Academic Standards Revision Process FAQs](#)
- ii. Any questions can be directed to:
[Jerry L. Price](#), NBCT
Associate Director – Content, Social Studies
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)