

# West Virginia Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

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The state of West Virginia regularly revises its statewide social studies standards on a six-year cycle. These standards govern social studies instruction in all West Virginia public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). As part of the standards revision cycle, the Department assembles a social studies standards writing and revision committee; members are West Virginia teachers, university administrators, faculty, and parents. Individuals are recommended, appointed, and selected for committee membership by the West Virginia Department of Education and County Superintendents. The West Virginia State Board of Education determines whether or not to adopt statewide academic standards. Before 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 public comment periods and hearings conducted by the WVDE and public West Virginia State Board of Education meetings.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[West Virginia K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted in July 11, 2016]

**a. Website**

- i. [West Virginia Department of Education \(WVDOE\) Website](#)

**b. West Virginia DOE Social Studies Resources**

- i. [West Virginia Social Studies Resources](#)

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

[West Virginia content standards revision revision schedule](#): West Virginia’s social studies content standards are reviewed on a six year cycle; current social studies standards are scheduled for review and update from 2024–2025.

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

**a. West Virginia Legislation**

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [W. Va. Code §18-2E-1a](#) [*Standards, assessment and accountability programs; duties of the state board*]

**b. West Virginia Administrative Code: Education**

- i. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-24-2](#) [*Rationale (for Incorporation of Inter-Ethnic Concepts And Instructional Techniques Concepts)*]
- ii. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-24-3](#) [*Incorporation of (Inter-Ethnic Concepts And Instructional Techniques) Concepts*]
- iii. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-39-2](#) [*Rationale (for Selection Of Textbooks And Other Instructional Materials: Inter-Ethnic In Content, Concept And Illustration)*]
- iv. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-39-3](#) [*Selection of Textbooks And Other Instructional Materials: Inter-Ethnic In Content, Concept And Illustration – Requirement*]
- v. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-59-3](#) [*Courses of Instruction, Voter Registration – Procedures*]
- vi. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-42-7 \(7.1.i\)](#) [*Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs – Responsibilities*]
- vii. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-150-3](#) [*The Study of Multicultural Education for School Personnel – Eligibility*]
- viii. [W. Va. Code R. § 126-116-5](#) [*Educational Personnel Development Plan Regarding The Teaching Of Economics as Part Of The Social Studies Graduation Requirement – Plan*]

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

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

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of Middle and Secondary Services directs the process of revising and writing academic standards during a standards revision cycle; the WVDE assembles a social studies standards writing and revision committee; members are West Virginia teachers, university administrators, faculty, and parents. Individuals are recommended, appointed, and selected for committee membership by the West Virginia Department of Education and County Superintendents.

- i. Any questions can be directed to:

[Dustin Lambert](#), M.Ed.,  
Coordinator,  
Middle Schools & Social Studies 6-12,  
West Virginia Nonpublic Schools & Homeschool,  
WVDE Office of Teaching and Learning,  
Middle and Secondary Services

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

The State Board of Education adopts West Virginia’s content standards ([W. Va. Code §18-2-5](#)).

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

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

Twelve members serve on the State Board of Education; three of these — the state Superintendent of Schools, the chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, and the chancellor of the West Virginia council for community and technical college education — are appointed ex officio. The remaining nine members are citizens of West Virginia, appointed by the Governor, by and with the legislative review of the West Virginia Senate ([W. Va. Code §18-2-1](#)).

*b. How is the West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools appointed?*

The State Superintendent of Schools is appointed by the West Virginia Board of Education and serves at their pleasure ([W. Va. Code §18-3-1](#)).

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

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

The general public has multiple opportunities to offer input and feedback during a standards' revision cycle:

- i. First, West Virginia parents and community members can serve on the standards' writing and revision committee. Members are chosen via recommendation by county superintendents and other individuals.
- ii. Second, the West Virginia Department of Education holds public meetings in which members of the general public can offer feedback, input, and suggestions.
- iii. Third, during a revision cycle, the Department announces public comment periods concerning academic standards under revision on the [Board of Education Policies under Public Comment web page](#) and posts drafts of proposed social studies standards on the [West Virginia Board of Education Policies web page](#) for at least 30 days ([WVBE Policy 1242](#)).
- iv. Finally, nearly all Board of Education meetings are an open forum where the public can offer feedback during the period of public testimony. All West Virginia State Board of Education policies under review, meeting agendas, and annual meeting calendar are accessible to the public through the [West Virginia State Board of Education Information Page](#).

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