

Wisconsin Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Wisconsin periodically revises its statewide social studies standards. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Wisconsin public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI). The WDPI appoints the State Superintendent's Social Studies Standards Writing Committee to review and revise Wisconsin's statewide social studies standards; committee members are educators, administrators, higher education staff, and industry professionals. In addition to this writing committee, the Superintendent's Academic Standards Review Council, appointed by Wisconsin's State Superintendent of Public Instruction, reviews standards under revision and provides its own recommendations. When drafts of proposed revisions to Wisconsin's social studies standards are completed by the Social Studies Standards Writing Committee, they are first presented to the Wisconsin State Superintendent's Standards Review Council; the Council recommends whether or not the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction ought to formally adopt the draft. 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 public hearings and public comment periods conducted by the WDPI and the Superintendent's Standards Review Council.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[Wisconsin K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted May 29, 2018]

a. Website Location

- i. [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(WDPI\) Website](#)

b. Wisconsin WDPI Social Studies Resources

- i. [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\) Social Studies Information Page](#)
- ii. [Essential Questions Reflecting Wisconsin Social Studies Standards](#)
- iii. [Webb’s Social Studies Depth of Knowledge \(DOK\) Summary](#)

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

Wisconsin Academic Standards Revision Schedule: Wisconsin’s statutory code does not indicate a mandated revision or adoption schedule which requires the state to revise standards every certain number of years. In order to determine whether to maintain current academic standards or to revise them, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction releases and fills out a [Standards Review Checklist](#) following public feedback concerning whether existing social studies standards ought to be revised.

- a. See: [Wisconsin 2020–2026 Timeline for Academic Standards Review](#)

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

a. Wisconsin Legislature

- i. See: [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)
- ii. [Wis. Stat. §118.02](#) [*Special Observance Days*]
- iii. [Wis. Stat. §118.30](#) [*Pupil assessment*]

b. Wisconsin Administrative Code

- i. [Wis. Admin. Code PI 18.03](#) [*High school graduation standards*]
- ii. [Wis. Admin. Code PI 8.01](#) [*School district standards*]
- iii. [Wis. Admin. Code PI 5.06](#) [*High school equivalency diploma based on attainment of high school credits*]

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

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

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) convenes the social studies standards review and revision process. The WDPI appoints the State Superintendent’s Social Studies Standards Writing Committee to review and revise Wisconsin’s statewide social studies standards; committee members are educators, administrators, higher education staff, and industry professionals.

In addition to the writing committees, the Superintendent’s Academic Standards Review Council reviews standards under revision and provides its own recommendations.

- i. For more information, see:
 1. [Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies Review and Revision Process Information Page](#)
 2. [Wisconsin DPI Academic Standards Revision Timeline and Review Process Flow-chart](#)

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

Final drafts of proposed revisions to Wisconsin’s social studies standards are first presented to the Wisconsin State Superintendent’s Standards Review Council; the Council recommends whether or not the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction ought to formally adopt the draft.

- i. See: [Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies Review and Revision Process Information Page](#)

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

a. How are the members of Wisconsin’s State Superintendent’s Standards Review Council appointed?

The Council is appointed by the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Wisconsin law, [Wi. Stat. §15.04](#), provides that heads of independent agencies may create and appoint such councils and committees as the operation of the agency requires.

- i. See: [Wisconsin Academic Standards Review Council Information Page](#)

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

The Superintendent is elected every 4 years.

- i. See: [About Department of Public Instruction Information Page](#)

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

a. Where does public input occur during Wisconsin's standards revision process?

Wisconsin's social studies standards revision process begins with a Notice of Intent to review existing standards and a public comment period concerning whether or not there is a need for standards to be revised. The State Superintendent's Standards Review Council examines comments received and recommends to the Superintendent of Public Instruction whether or not to review and revise standards.

- i. Example of Notice of Intent: [2018 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Notice of Intent to Review Social Studies Standards \(pdf\)](#)

The first draft of proposed revisions to Wisconsin's social studies standards are then released for public review; public hearings take place shortly thereafter. Before submitting the final draft of revised social studies standards, the Wisconsin social studies standards writing team meets to review all public comments.

- ii. For more information, see:
 1. [Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies Review and Revision Process Information Page](#)
 2. [Wisconsin DPI Academic Standards Revision Timeline and Review Process Flow-chart](#)