

Vermont Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

The state of Vermont periodically revises its statewide social studies standards according to a schedule periodically released by the Vermont Department of Education. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Vermont public schools. Currently, Vermont’s social studies standards are not developed internally within the state by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) or Vermont State Board of Education. Vermont has instead adopted national social studies standards developed externally by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards. The C3 Social Studies Framework was developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers in social studies education, the National Council for Social Studies, as well as the experts in social studies education, classroom teachers, state social studies education leaders, and professional organization representatives from around the United States whom both Councils appointed. The Vermont State Board of Education is responsible for adopting Vermont’s statewide social studies standards. Before this final adoption takes place, however, the general public of Vermont has the opportunity to review and comment on the national social studies standards under consideration for adoption through public comment periods and public hearings conducted by the Vermont Agency of Education and State Board of Education.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

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

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

[College, Career, and Civic Life \(C3\) Framework for Social Studies State Standards](#) [Adopted 2017]

a. Website Location

- i. [Vermont Agency of Education Website](#)

b. Vermont Agency of Education Social Studies Resources

- i. [Vermont Miscellaneous Social Studies Resources](#)

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

Vermont Academic Standards Revision Schedule: The Vermont State Board of Education is required to “periodically” update statewide learning standards ([Vt. Stat. tit. Ann. 16 §164](#)) however, the state does not have an academic standards’ revision schedule which requires the state to review and revise its standards every certain number of years; Vermont social studies standards reflect current national standards, specifically The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards. Thus, Vermont’s social studies standards can only be updated if the C3 Framework is updated and the State Board of Education chooses to adopt those updates.

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

a. Vermont Legislation

- i. *See:* [NAS Compilation of State Statutes concerning Social Studies Instruction for each US State](#)

b. Vermont State Board of Education (SBE) Rules:

- i. [Vermont SBE Education Quality Standard Series 2000](#) (EQS 2120.5)

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

a. *What agency writes Vermont’s social studies standards?*

In the past, the Vermont State Board of Education has approved social studies content standards developed in Vermont; however, in recent years, the Board has approved national standards for proficiency in social studies, such as The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

- i. Any questions can be directed to:

[Martha Deiss](#),

Vermont Agency of Education

The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards writing process was directed by individual state leaders (The Council of Chief State School Officers) in social studies education, the National Council for Social Studies and was supported by 15 professional organizations specializing in civics, economics, geography, and history.

These organizations worked together as the C3 Framework Task Force of Professional Organizations and selected experts in the academic disciplines and social studies education, classroom teachers, state social studies education leaders, and professional organization representatives from around the United States to write the C3 Framework.

- ii. For more information, see:

1. [National Council for Social Studies C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards Update](#)
2. [Interview Transcript of Susan Griffith, former President of *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies*, concerning C3 Framework for Social Studies](#)

b. What agency adopts Vermont’s social studies standards?

The Vermont State Board of Education adopts statewide academic standards ([Vt. Stat. tit. Ann. 16 §164](#)).

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

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

The 10 members of the Vermont State Board of Education are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Vermont Senate ([Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16 §161](#)).

b. How is the Vermont State Secretary of Education appointed?

The governor selects the education secretary from a list of no fewer than three candidates submitted by the Vermont State Board of Education; the secretary's appointment is confirmed by the Vermont State Senate ([Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 3 §2702](#)).

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

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

The general public in Vermont was not involved in the development of the content of Vermont's current social studies standards (The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards), as the C3 Framework was developed externally by national social studies organizations, rather than by the Vermont State Department of Education, Secretary of Education, or Board of Education.

Vermont has adopted national social studies standards for its own statewide social studies standards; for the time being, the state of Vermont will continue to do so. Should Vermont then choose to revise its social studies standards, whether by adopting new updates to the C3 Framework or a new set of national social studies standards, the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and State Board of Education (SBE) will follow the process listed below:

- i. During an announced Vermont State Board of Education (SBE) public hearing, the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) requests permission from the SBE to conduct research and submit a subsequent proposal for an update to standards which are national in scope.
- ii. At the time of this request, the AOE provides background information to the public regarding why the Agency feels an update of the standards is necessary. The AOE also provides the SBE with information regarding any policy, education, and/or fiscal implications that may arise due to the adoption of new standards. If granted permission from the SBE, the AOE begins research into existing national social studies standards.
- iii. Vermont superintendents, administrators, curriculum directors, and educators are then asked to provide input regarding national standards which have been identified. The AOE considers this input, including consideration of any alternate standards supplied by the field, to make a recommendation of preferred standards to the SBE.

- iv. Prior to a second public hearing, both the SBE and the public are provided the reasons for the recommendation, including input from Vermont educators, how the preferred national standards were developed, and why the chosen standards are superior to other national standards. The AOE then brings this information to a public hearing and answers questions from the Board and the public prior to the Board's vote for adoption.

Once the State Board of Education has accepted an upcoming agenda, it is posted on the [Vermont State Board of Education website](#). If standards' adoption is included on an agenda, information regarding adoption such as future public comment periods and hearings are made available to the public there; furthermore, all events, committee, and Vermont Board of Education meetings are announced and have provided streaming information for on the [Vermont Agency of Education Events Web Page](#).

- v. Any questions concerning the above information on public input during a standards' update can be directed to:

[Martha Deiss](#),

Vermont Agency of Education