

Social Studies Standards Update Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why were the social studies standards updated?

Michigan's Social Studies Standards were created in 2007. Research over the last eight years provides better methods for improving our abilities to ensure students are career, college, and civic life ready. The Update Committee was charged with making the Standards "fewer, clearer, and higher."

2. Who made the changes in the Standards? Were teachers involved?

The Michigan Department of Education contracted with the Michigan Council for Social Studies, Michigan Council for History Education, Michigan Geographic Alliance, Michigan Center for Civic Education, and the Michigan Council of Economic Education to provide members for each of the committees. Each group appointed teachers and educators to the committees.

3. What are some of the major changes in the standards?

Change	Rationale
6 th Grade will be World Geography	Existing content expectations for 6 th and 7 th grade are redundant. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year.
7 th Grade will be World History	Existing content expectations for 6 th and 7 th grade are redundant. The artificial separation of Eastern and Western hemisphere is eliminated.

World History and Geography Era 4: Era 4 Expanding and Intensified Hemispheric Interactions, 300 to 1500 C.E./A.D. moved to middle school	Provides high schools more rigor for World History and Geography Era 8 – The Cold War and Its Aftermath: The 20th Century Since 1945
American History Era 6: Industrialization, 1870-1930, moved to the high school	Era 6 sets the stage for most of 20 th century US History & Geography
Processes and Skills section updated to produce college, career, and civic life ready students	Research over the last eight years provides better methods for improving our abilities to ensure students are career, college, and civic life ready
GLCEs and HSCEs edited to create "fewer, clearer, higher"	Feedback from teachers at conferences & workshops revealed a need for this (fewer, clearer, higher)
Standards placed in vertical alignment to ensure grade level appropriateness	Helps K-12 social studies teachers understand how their work fits the full curriculum
Civil Rights Considerations	Southern Poverty Law Center gives Michigan an "F" for civil rights content in Standards

4. What grades are the most and least impacted by the changes?

Both seventh grade World History & Geography and high school World History & Geography are most impacted by the first change mentioned above. Eighth grade U.S. History & Geography and high school U.S. History

& Geography will be most impacted by the second change mentioned above. All other grade levels will see very few if any changes.

5. Are these Common Core for social studies?

No, the social studies Standards are updated through the lens of the C3 Framework. The C3 Framework was created by a voluntary group of 28 states- Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction Committee- work under the direction of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

6. What were the changes in the process and skills?

The Processes and Skills section is updated to produce college, career, and civic life ready students. Research over the last eight years provides better methods for improving our abilities to ensure students are career, college, and civic life ready

7. What is the C3 Framework and how does it impact the standards?

The C3 Framework is formally titled "SOCIAL STUDIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, Purposes, Practices, and Implications of the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards." The C3 Framework was used by the Update Committee as a lens to make Michigan's content expectations "fewer, clearer, and higher."

8. How will this impact teachers?

Teachers involved in the changes mentioned in #4 above will be impacted the most. Other teachers will only need to make minor changes.

9. Will schools need new curriculum?

No, adjustments will need to be made based on the two changes mentioned in #4 above but major curriculum changes will not be necessary.

10. Will we need new textbooks?

No, most current textbooks will be appropriate with the possible exception of those covering the areas mentioned above. Teachers and districts looking for textbooks better aligned to the updated Standards should consult the newly created Mi Open Books produced by Michigan teachers. They are free and accessible online at _____.

11. What professional development will be needed and how will it be provided?

The Michigan Department of Education will set up professional development opportunities around the state, on the web, and online help. The schedule is to be determined.

12. What resources are available to help implement the changes?

The Mi Open Textbooks, Michigan eLibrary M.O.R.E. Portal, Michigan Historical Center, Historical Society of Michigan, Michigan Citizenship Collaborative Curriculum (MC3), and the Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking (PASST) Assessments are all using the C3 Framework to help teachers implement the changes.

13. How is this different from the previous standards?

Less than 10% of the Standards have been updated. The major difference in the updated Standards is in the “fewer, clearer, and higher” content expectations.

14. How will testing and assessments be impacted?

The updated Standards require higher order thinking so new item types are needed to assess increased Depth of Knowledge (DOK). Assessments will continue to use multiple choice items with technology-enhanced items (drag/drop, select text, radio dial, hotspot, graphing) with intentions to add constructed-response items.

How will teacher certification be impacted?

Current standards are aligned with the teacher preparation standards. OPPS will examine the areas within the standards that could be enhanced