



Position Statement

Social Studies

PROCESS

To make certain that all Idaho students are provided the opportunity to meet the high expectations of Idaho's content standards, educators need access to instructional materials that are not only high quality but well aligned to Idaho content standards. For the 2017 review cycle, Idaho's Social Studies Curricular Review Committee evaluated submitted materials for content, organization, presentation and quality. The result of this process will provide districts with needed information on instructional materials in order to make informed adoption decisions. This process also allows for local control in regards to choice on instructional materials; districts may also choose to adopt curriculum that was/is not reviewed.

The Curricular Review process included an initial training of all evaluators, a remote review of assigned materials, and a consensus review where evaluators who were assigned the same materials partnered up for a final rating on each textbook based on the following ratings:

- **Comprehensive Program** - A program which consistently meets the focus, coherence, depth, and rigor of the Idaho Content Standards with minimal or no need for instructional adaptations and/or supplemental materials. A comprehensive program provides effective content progressions within and between grade levels.
- **Basic Program** - A program which meets the focus, coherence, depth, and rigor of the Idaho Content Standards at a substantial level with some need for supplemental material. A basic program provides content progressions within and between grade levels, though they may be uneven.
- **Component Program** - A program designed and intended to be used to supplement a comprehensive or basic program. A Component Program will support and/or enhance the focus, coherence, depth, and rigor of a comprehensive or basic program.
- **Intervention Program** - A program designed and intended to target and support students' specific needs.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies are defined as the integrated study of the social sciences. The social studies curriculum draws upon such disciplines as economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, and world affairs. The key components of the Idaho Content Standards for Social Studies are history, geography, economics, civics/government, and global studies. It is recommended that local school districts develop a K-12 social studies curriculum that clearly identifies student learning in both content knowledge and skills.

A strong emphasis should be placed on the important and enduring ideas, events and people that played a key role in our past and will serve as a foundation for our future. Students should recognize their roles in society today and within the history of the United States.

In addition to a strong knowledge base, it is imperative that students develop the critical thinking skills necessary to participate fully in our society. These skills should include developing reasonable arguments; understanding perspective, bias and opinion; deductive and inductive reasoning; chronological and historical thinking; research and analysis; data collection and interpretation; issue analysis and decision making, using primary and secondary sources, comparing and contrasting; conflict management, and working cooperatively in groups.

Of special note is the understanding that authors of social studies materials represent a vast diversity of cultures and opinions. Consequently, these different perspectives and opinions require that school districts study carefully the social studies curricular materials considered for purchase in their districts. School districts are strongly encouraged to select curricular materials that support the Idaho Content Standards for Social Studies and are consistent with the needs of their students and the desires of their local patrons.

REVIEW

For the 2017 review cycle, 29 educators and/or administrators across the State of Idaho reviewed 63 textbooks. Contracts for these materials are effective September 1, 2017-December 31, 2023. For the final review results, please visit the [curricular materials webpage](#).

For Questions Contact

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