

IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS

SOCIAL STUDIES K-12

Social studies are defined as the integrated study of the social sciences. The social studies curriculum draws upon such disciplines as economics, geography, history, 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. The standards define what all students are expected to know and be able to do, not how teachers should teach. The standards allow local school districts the flexibility to provide rigorous and challenging curriculum that is consistent with the needs of students and the desires of their local patrons.

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.

In addition to a strong knowledge base, it is imperative that students develop reading skills, writing skills, speaking skills, listening skills, and using language effectively in the field of social studies. Other 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.

All students will meet standards established locally (at a minimum, the standards of the state) through rigorous accountability, which include challenging examinations, demonstrations of achievements, and other appropriate tests and measures. Instruction is inclusive of subject matter, content and course offerings. Patterns of instructional organization are a local school district option. Schools will assure students meet locally developed standards with the state standards as a minimum.

Social Studies will include instruction in history, government, geography, economics, current world affairs, citizenship, and sociology. Five (5) credits, including government (two (2) credits), United States history (two (2) credits), and economics (one (1) credit) are required for high school graduation. Courses such as geography, sociology, psychology, and world history may be offered as electives, but are not to be counted as a social studies requirement.