

Update on Social Studies Standards Work in Kentucky

Senate Bill 1 (2009) requires that Kentucky revise all required content standards to reflect the necessary knowledge and skills needed to ensure all students are college and career ready. SB 1 suggests that all standards should be rigorous, world class, and internationally benchmarked, while also allowing for deeper engagement around fewer concepts/topics. Adoption of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics was the first step taken to address SB 1. Despite the fact that the ELA standards include a section for Literacy in History/Social Studies, there is still a need for a set of Social Studies standards that fully addresses the needs of Kentucky's 21st century learners.

In February of 2013, a team of elementary, middle, high school, higher education, and key Social Studies advocacy group representatives was established to begin setting a vision for and drafting new social studies standards for the Commonwealth. These new standards will be based on a document called the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies.

The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Inquiry in Social Studies State Standards, currently under development by the National Council on Social Studies (NCSS)—led by University of Kentucky's Kathy Swan (who is also on the team mentioned above)—will ultimately focus on the disciplinary and multidisciplinary concepts and practices that make up the process of investigation, analysis, and explanation. It is designed to have explicit connections to the Common Core ELA standards. Work on the C3 Framework began in 2010. Members of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO's) Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSACI) collaborative (of which Kentucky is a member) provided feedback and guidance to this process. The C3 Framework is scheduled for release on or around Constitution Day this year—September 17, 2013.

The KY team has been working with a near-final draft of the C3 Framework since late spring and has been able to begin some prioritization of desired characteristics/elements for a new set of standards—and has even begun to draft some models of what the new standards might be. Once the final C3 Framework is released, small writing teams will work to capture the thinking of the team and the intent of the Framework to draft a complete set of standards. During this period other key stakeholders and experts in various related fields will be asked for comments and feedback to ensure the quality of the work.

Teacher, School, and District Leaders participating in Kentucky's Leadership Networks for Social Studies will have multiple opportunities to provide input/feedback as well. The goal is to have a solid, defensible, world-class draft of college/career- ready standards to present to the Kentucky Board of Education in 2014. Progress updates will continue on a regular basis during Network meetings and in KDE's ISN Newsletters and Webcasts.