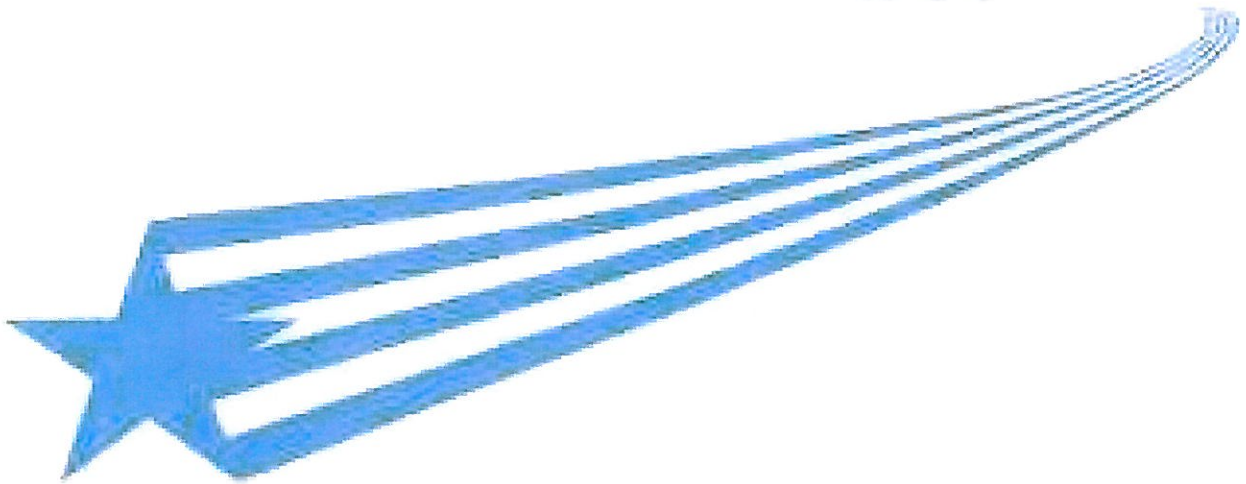


# **Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation**



**Draft July 2014**

**Kentucky Core Academic Standards**



## Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation

### Introduction

As young learners of the 21<sup>st</sup> century engage in the integrated study of the social sciences, it is critical that they are equipped with the dexterity of mind to question, evaluate and communicate what is necessary to become active, productive and engaged citizens in a culturally diverse, democratic society. Kentucky's Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation will enable educators to design curriculum that enhances the students' content knowledge while building critical thinking skills. These standards will empower 21<sup>st</sup> century learners to move beyond the acquisition of isolated facts while equipping them with the dispositions necessary to become stewards of democracy as citizens in an interdependent world.

### Disciplinary Core Concepts

Kentucky's Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation answers the demand of educators to reimagine what students learn and how they learn. These standards have identified Disciplinary Core Concepts (DCCs), derived from the *C3 Framework*, *Global Competence Matrix*, and the *Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills*, as the methods in which social scientist engage in disciplinary thinking. Kentucky's Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation use the DCCs to define the content of the social studies discipline as the development of: Civic Mindedness (CM), Economic Decision Making (EDM), Geographic Reasoning (GR) and Historical Thinking (HT).

### Inquiry Cycle

Kentucky's Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation builds a paradigm of teaching and learning that asks learners to be meaningfully engaged in the practices in the Inquiry Cycle: Questioning, Evaluating and Communicating while accessing and developing Disciplinary Core Concepts. The components of the Inquiry Practices frame the Disciplinary Core Concepts to construct opportunities to critically think about and collaborate on fundamental aspects of what it means to be college, career and civic ready. The outcomes from such rich and meaningful learning experiences will better prepare future citizens to communicate and creatively resolve the problems of our world, while also accessing the DCCs of the social sciences.

### Crosscutting Threads

It is the responsibility of social studies educators to support the development of active citizens who participate productively in the world around them. It is essential that all Kentucky students are globally-prepared and ready to support communities and companies with citizens and workers who understand how to cooperate and compete in an increasingly global economy. Kentucky's Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation attempts to meet these needs by infusing the following crosscutting threads into both the Inquiry Practices and the Disciplinary Core Concepts: Global Competency, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, and Local to Global Scale Connections.