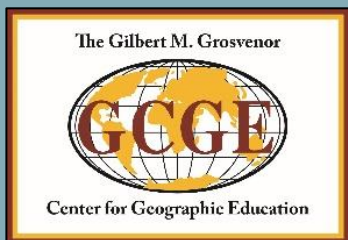


SOCIAL STUDIES AND GEOGRAPHY SURVEY FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Fall 2017

By Joann Zadrozny



THE GILBERT M. GROSVENOR
CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC
EDUCATION

SOCIAL STUDIES AND GEOGRAPHY SURVEY FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

This report is the fifth conducted by the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education in the investigation of middle school and high school geography standards and requirements by state during the fall of 2017. This study was first conducted in 2009 and has been completed every two years. The purpose of this research is to examine the status of geography by looking at social studies standards and course requirements in each of the fifty states and the District of Columbia.

While many states teach geographic concepts, knowledge, and skills within the K-12 curriculum, the focus of this survey is from Grade 6- 12. Every state embeds geography within the social studies standards and curriculum at grades K-5, therefore this is not discussed. However, at the upper grades, a variation of social studies courses are offered, usually broken into world history, U.S. history, geography, government/civics, and economics. It is also useful to determine the extent to which geographic concepts, knowledge, and skills are taught by examining how they are embedded in state's social studies standards.

This long-term data collection has allowed for longitudinal analysis of trends in social studies and geography on a state-by-state basis. This document functions as a tool to analyze these trends, but researchers must be cautious to look deeper, when and if changes are apparent from year to year. Some apparent changes may be due to varying definitions used by the researchers or state school officials (i.e. required stand-alone geography course versus required combined course) rather than a more fundamental change (i.e. change in high school graduation requirements).

GEOGRAPHY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To determine required geography courses, state's education websites were used to gather standards documents and curriculum frameworks. Also, personal communication with chief state social studies consultants was used to corroborate data obtained from education websites and, if needed, to clarify information. As expected, each state is often different, in terms of stating educational mandates, a byproduct of education not being federally managed but state-based and locally controlled.

Some states have set required courses in grades 6-8 reflected in curriculum frameworks and social studies standards. Other states have identified the core content focus in social studies standards that should be addressed in grade 6-8 courses. In some cases, the standards are intended to assist in district curriculum development, unit design, and provide uniform instruction across the state. They are not intended to be a state-mandated curriculum for how and when content is taught, which is frequently left to local school districts decisions. On the other hand, in some states, the standards are mandatory and should be taught at some point during the year in a social studies course. These distinctions vary across the nation making it difficult to group states into the pre-determined five categories identified below. This report notes these distinctions on the individual state information sheet to provide a more complete picture.

At the high school level, the geography course requirements were found by examining the high school graduation requirements (linked on the state information sheets). The minimum number of credits needed to fulfill the social studies requirement for high school graduation is set by state statutes and regulations. However, local school districts often have the option to require more credits. Therefore, at the high school level, it is easier to identify geography as either required, not required, locally determined, or as an option for students to choose as an elective. Exact graduation credits needed for social studies are available in each state's information sheet.

The first question of the survey was, "Is geography a requirement for high school graduation or completion of middle school?". Based upon previous surveys, the following five pre-determined choices were possibilities for requirements in geography courses in middle and high schools.

1. Yes, a **geography** course is required (or geography content is the primary focus of the course/standards)*
2. Yes, a geography/other social studies **combined** course is required
3. No, a geography course is **not required**
4. **Optional**, students choose between a geography course or another social studies course to fulfill a requirement (or elective)*
5. **Local school districts** control and set course requirements

*Added after data analysis

STANDARDS AND STRANDS

Geography is one of the four core academic subjects in the social studies (along with history, government/civics, and economics). Since the inception of standards in the early 1990s, states have adopted their own set of social studies standards that dictate what students should know and be able to do at each grade level or grade span. This research examines each state's social studies standards document and determines if geography has a separate set of standards for a stand-alone geography course, or if the geography standards are embedded within the social studies framework as a strand.

For the purpose of this survey of geography requirements, the researchers have adopted the following definitions for 'standards' and 'strand'.

Standards: a set of content knowledge and skills that is designed for a class in which the major focus is on geography and geographic thinking.

Strand: geography content merged with other social studies content for a class that is not exclusively geographic in nature, but which is strengthened by geographic perspectives or skills.

Using the definitions above, there are three categories for classification regarding how geography content is organized:

1. **Standards:** a separate set of geography standards for a stand-alone geography course (e.g. World Geography).
2. **Strand:** geography standards are included as one of the strands in the social studies standards OR geography standards are integrated in another stand-alone social studies course (e.g. U.S. History, World History).
3. **Both:** geography is represented as a separate set of standards for a stand-alone course AND is included as a strand as part of the social studies standards or another stand-alone social studies course.

STANDARDS REVISION SCHEDULE

As education reforms change (i.e. common core, STEM-focus) and new academic content is updated, state standards should change as well to ensure students are learning the most up-to-date content knowledge and skills. Geography released national standards in 1994 and a revised edition in 2012. The National Council for the Social Studies released social studies standards in 1994 and 2010, and then the *College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies Standards* for more rigorous standards in history, geography, civics, and economics in 2013.

A component of this research is to identify the year in which the current state social studies standards were prepared and the next time a revision is scheduled. It is also noted when they were adopted, revised, and implemented, if available. The revision process can take a year or two until they are adopted by state law. It then takes an additional year for the standards to be fully implemented throughout the state. In some cases, states have not updated their standards since their initial adoption, and instead update a curriculum framework for teachers to use as a guide, such as California or New York.

RESULTS

After a careful analysis of state's course requirements it became clear that each state varies greatly and does not fit into the pre-determined five categories neatly. Therefore, the report includes individual state information sheets to explain course requirements in detail, since a "yes, geography is required" is not the same as a "standalone geography course" required by the state. Table 1 displays a generalized classification of each state into one of the five pre-determined designations, adhering to certain criteria applied by the researcher to maintain consistency.

Table 1
Geography Course Requirements for Middle and High School, Total

| | Middle School | High School |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Yes | 19 | 6 |
| Combination Course | 16 | 11 |
| No | 0 | 7 |
| Local Control | 16 | 15 |
| Optional/Elective | - | 12 |

Looking at how geography is included in social studies standard frameworks, the majority of states include geography as a strand, 48 at middle school and 39 states in high school (Table 2). This means that geography is just one of multiple social studies content knowledge and skills that should be covered at that grade level. There are nine states that have a specific set of standards for a geography course at the middle school level, and 20 at the high school level. Table 5 and the individual state information sheets provide a detailed, state-by-state review of standards and strands.

Table 2
Geography Standards for Middle and High School, Total

| | Middle School | High School |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Strand | 42 | 31 |
| Standards | 3 | 12 |
| Both | 6 | 8 |

Table 3 provides an idea of when the social studies standards frameworks were revised and adopted that are currently in use within the state. There are 21 states that have revised the social studies standards within the last five years (years 2013-2017), 18 from 2008 to 2012 and 13 that are ten years or older. Table 6 provides state-by-state detail of when states last revised the standards and the upcoming revision year. Looking at upcoming revisions, there are 9 states that are currently in the process of revising their social studies standards. Three states will start the revision process in 2018, five in 2019 and five in 2020. The remaining 29 states have no expected revision date scheduled for the social studies standards. Some states try to revise their standards every five to eight years, however due to funding restrictions many times social studies standards are put aside. Or in the case like California, changing standards requires legislation so instead they update the curriculum framework every eight years.

Table 3
Revision/Adoption Year of Social Studies Standards

| | Total* |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 2013-2017 | 21 |
| 2008-2012 | 18 |
| 2003-2007 | 9 |
| 1999-2003 | 1 |
| Before 1998 | 3 |

*Total comes to 52 because Utah standards have two adoption dates 2010 (K-6) and 2017 (Grade 7-12).

CONCLUSIONS

This survey clearly demonstrates the inter-state variability of social studies education. Not only do social studies requirements and curriculum vary across each state, but each state's definition differs. Some states use standards as mandatory course requirements for classroom curriculum, whereas other states view standards as general guidelines teachers can incorporate but are not required. The consensus is that geography is well represented in the social studies curriculum, however it plays a secondary role to history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Andrea Pinon, Sarah Holloway, and Alisa Hartsell for their assistance in data collection.

TABLE 4: GEOGRAPHY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

| State | Middle School | High School |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama | Yes | No |
| Alaska | Local | Local |
| Arizona | Combined | Combined |
| Arkansas | Yes | Optional |
| California | Combined | Combined |
| Colorado | Local | Local |
| Connecticut | Yes | Optional |
| Delaware | Yes | Local |
| District of Columbia | Combined | Combined |
| Florida | Combined | No |
| Georgia | Yes | No |
| Hawaii | Combined | Optional |
| Idaho | Yes | No |
| Illinois | Local | No |
| Indiana | Yes | Optional |
| Iowa | Yes | Local |
| Kansas | Yes | Local |
| Kentucky | Combined | Local |
| Louisiana | Combined | Optional |
| Maine | Local | Local |
| Maryland | Yes | No |
| Massachusetts | Yes | No |
| Michigan | Yes | Combined |
| Minnesota | Yes | Yes |
| Mississippi | Combined | Yes |
| Missouri | Local | Local |
| Montana | Local | Local |
| Nebraska | Combined | Combined |
| Nevada | Yes | Combined |
| New Hampshire | Local | Optional |
| New Jersey | Local | Combined |
| New Mexico | Local | Combined |
| New York | Local | Combined |
| North Carolina | Yes | Optional |
| North Dakota | Local | Optional |
| Ohio | Yes | Local |
| Oklahoma | Yes | Optional |
| Oregon | Combined | Yes |
| Pennsylvania | Local | Local |
| Rhode Island | Local | Local |
| South Carolina | Combined | Optional |
| South Dakota | Combined | Yes |
| Tennessee | Combined | Combined |
| Texas | Yes | Optional |
| Utah | Yes | Yes |
| Vermont | Local | Local |
| Virginia | Combined | Optional |
| Washington | Combined | Combined |
| West Virginia | Combined | Yes |
| Wisconsin | Local | Local |
| Wyoming | Local | Local |

TABLE 5: GEOGRAPHY WITHIN SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

| State | Middle School | High School |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama | Both | Both |
| Alaska | Standards | Standards |
| Arizona | Strand | Strand |
| Arkansas | Both | Both |
| California | Strand | Strand |
| Colorado | Strand | Strand |
| Connecticut | Strand | Strand |
| Delaware | Strand | Strand |
| District of Columbia | Both | Strand |
| Florida | Strand | Strand |
| Georgia | Strand | Standards |
| Hawaii | Strand | Standards |
| Idaho | Strand | Strand |
| Illinois | Strand | Strand |
| Indiana | Strand | Both |
| Iowa | Strand | Both |
| Kansas | Both | Standards |
| Kentucky | Strand | Strand |
| Louisiana | Strand | Standards |
| Maine | Strand | Strand |
| Maryland | Strand | Strand |
| Massachusetts | Both | Strand |
| Michigan | Strand | Standards |
| Minnesota | Strand | Standards |
| Mississippi | Standards | Standards |
| Missouri | Strand | Strand |
| Montana | Strand | Strand |
| Nebraska | Strand | Strand |
| Nevada | Strand | Strand |
| New Hampshire | Strand | Strand |
| New Jersey | Strand | Strand |
| New Mexico | Strand | Strand |
| New York | Strand | Strand |
| North Carolina | Strand | Standards |
| North Dakota | Strand | Strand |
| Ohio | Strand | Both |
| Oklahoma | Standards | Standards |
| Oregon | Strand | Strand |
| Pennsylvania | Strand | Strand |
| Rhode Island | Strand | Strand |
| South Carolina | Both | Standards |
| South Dakota | Strand | Standards |
| Tennessee | Strand | Both |
| Texas | Strand | Strand |
| Utah | Strand | Strand |
| Vermont | Strand | Strand |
| Virginia | Strand | Both |
| Washington | Strand | Strand |
| West Virginia | Strand | Both |
| Wisconsin | Strand | Strand |
| Wyoming | Strand | Strand |

TABLE 6: STANDARDS REVISION SCHEDULE

| State | Last | Upcoming |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Alabama | 2010 | 2020 |
| Alaska | 2006 | N/A |
| Arizona | 2005 | Currently under revision |
| Arkansas | 2014 | 2020 |
| California | 1998 | N/A |
| Colorado | 2009 | Currently under revision |
| Connecticut | 2015 | N/A |
| Delaware | 2016 | N/A |
| District of Columbia | 2006 | NA |
| Florida | 2008 | N/A |
| Georgia | 2016 | N/A |
| Hawaii | 2007 | Currently under revision |
| Idaho | 2016 | N/A |
| Illinois | 2017 | N/A |
| Indiana | 2014 | 2020 |
| Iowa | 2017 | N/A |
| Kansas | 2013 | 2020 |
| Kentucky | 2015 | N/A |
| Louisiana | 2011 | N/A |
| Maine | 2007 | N/A |
| Maryland | 2015 | N/A |
| Massachusetts | 2003 | 2018 |
| Michigan | 2007 | Currently under revision |
| Minnesota | 2011 | 2020/2021 |
| Mississippi | 2010 | Currently under revision |
| Missouri | 2016 | 2019/2020 |
| Montana | 2000 | 2019 |
| Nebraska | 2012 | 2019 |
| Nevada | 2017 | N/A |
| New Hampshire | 2006 | Currently under revision |
| New Jersey | 2014 | N/A |
| New Mexico | 2009 | N/A |
| New York | 1996 | N/A |
| North Carolina | 2010 | N/A |
| North Dakota | 2007 | 2018/2019 |
| Ohio | 2010 | 2018 |
| Oklahoma | 2012 | N/A |
| Oregon | 2011 | Currently under revision |
| Pennsylvania | 2009 | N/A |
| Rhode Island | 2012 | N/A |
| South Carolina | 2011 | 2019 |
| South Dakota | 2015 | N/A |
| Tennessee | 2013 | Currently under revision |
| Texas | 2010 | 2019 |
| Utah | 2010 & 2017 | N/A |
| Vermont | 2017 | N/A |
| Virginia | 2015 | N/A |
| Washington | 2008 | N/A |
| West Virginia | 2016 | N/A |
| Wisconsin | 1998 | Currently under revision |
| Wyoming | 2014 | N/A |

STATE INFORMATION SHEETS, ALPHABETICAL

ALABAMA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 4 Courses:
Grade 9: World History: 1500 to Present (1 credit)
Grade 10: U.S. History I: Beginnings to the Industrial Revolution (1 credit)
Grade 11: U.S. History II: The Industrial Revolution to Present (1 credit)
Grade 12: U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
Grade 12: Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 U.S. History: The Industrial Revolution to the Present
Grade 7 **Geography** (1 semester)
Civics (1 semester)
Grade 8 World History: Beginning to 1500

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Human Geography (9-12); Dual Enrollment Geography; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 7 Geography
HS Human Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 U.S. History
Grade 7 Civics
Grade 8 World History to 1500
All HS History courses
Grade 12 U.S. Government
HS Contemporary World Issues and Civic Engagement

[2010 Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies](#)

Adopted May 2010

Revised 2013

Modified March 2015

Effective 2014-2015 school year

Upcoming 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nettie Carson-Mullins, Social Sciences Education Specialist

ncarson-mullins@alsde.edu

334-353-1191

ALASKA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses: *
Grade 9: Alaska Studies (0.5 credit)
Anchorage SD is 4 credits
Grade 10: World History (1 credit)
Grade 11: U.S. History (1 credit)
[Fairbanks North Star Borough SD](#) is 3.5 credits
Contemporary Government Studies (0.5 credit)
Contemporary Economic Studies (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Courses: *
Grade 6 U.S. History: 1968 to present
Grade 7 **World Geography**
Grade 8 U.S. History ("Three Worlds Meet" to "Pre-Civil War")

*These are course suggestions from Anchorage SD.

Fairbanks North Star Borough SD

Elective (0.5 credit)

curriculum can be found [here](#).

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography: Africa Studies, Asia Studies, European Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle East Studies, North American Studies; Environmental Studies; Global Geography; Global Geography-Honors, (9-12); Geography: Pacific Rim Studies; Geography: US Regional Studies; Contemporary Problems; International Relations; United Nations

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:
Grade 6-12

[Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Standards, Fourth Edition](#)

Revision March 2006

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: N/A

ARIZONA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#) Courses:

American / Arizona History (1 credit)

World History and Geography (1 credit)

American Government (including Arizona Government) (0.5 credit)

Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6 Social Studies (Emphasis on World History: Early Cultures through the Enlightenment)

Grade 7 Social Studies (Emphasis on American History: Civil War through the Great Depression)

Grade 8 Social Studies (Emphasis on U.S. History: Constitution to World War II to the Contemporary World)

*Themes of standards that need to be taught. No specific courses listed.

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 -12

[Arizona Academic Content Standards Social Studies](#)

Adopted September 2005

Updated May 2006

Currently Under Revision 2017/2018

Implementation Expected for 2019/2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tammy Waller, Director of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages

tammy.waller@azed.gov

602-364-1981

ARKANSAS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: **3** Courses:
Civics (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit) (can count towards SS 3 credits or toward the career focus elective credits)
U.S History since 1890 (1 credit)
World History since 1450 (1 credit)
Elective (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|---|
| Grade 6 | World History: Beginning of Human Civilization to 1500 C.E. |
| Grade 7 | World Geography |
| Grade 8 | U.S. History 1800-1900 |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Geography (0.5 credit); AP Human Geography; IB Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 7 Geography
HS World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 5-6 Social Studies
Grade 8 U.S. History 1800-1900
Grade 7-8 & HS Arkansas History
HS African American History
HS U.S. Government
HS U.S. History since 1890
HS World History since 1450

[Social Studies Curriculum Framework](#)

Revised 2014

Upcoming Revision Summer 2020

Implementation 2022-2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

Maggie Herrick, Social Studies Specialist
margaret.herrick@arkansas.gov

501-682-6584

CALIFORNIA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: **3** Courses:
Grade 10: **World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World** (1 credit)
Grade 11: **U.S. History and Geography: Continuity and Change in Modern U.S. History** (1 credit)
Grade 12: Principles of American Democracy (0.5 credit)
Grade 12: Principles of Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

| | |
|---------|---|
| Grade 6 | World History and Geography: Ancient Civilizations |
| Grade 7 | World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times |
| Grade 8 | U.S. History and Geography: Growth and Conflict |

*content standards not mandatory

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World and Regional Geography; Physical Geography; Survey of World Religions; Modern California

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:
Grade 6-12

[History- Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools](#)

Adopted October 1998

Published May 2000

Upcoming N/A

[History – Social Science Framework](#)

Adopted July 2016

Published 2017

Upcoming 2024

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant Curriculum Frameworks Unit

KMcDonal@cde.ca.gov

916-319-0447

COLORADO

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [Local](#)

Courses:

Civics/Government includes

U.S. and State of Colorado

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6

Social Studies

Grade 7

Social Studies

Grade 8

Social Studies

* Local control

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-12

[Colorado Academic Standards, Social Studies](#)

Adopted December 2009

Corrections October 2014

Currently under revision

CONTACT INFORMATION

Stephanie Hartman, Social Studies Content Specialist

hartman_s@cde.state.co.us

303-866-6577

CONNECTICUT

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#)

Courses:

9 credits in American History (1 credit)

humanities American Government and Civics

with at (0.5 credit)

least 3 in Elective

Social

Studies.

Up to local

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

**World Regional Studies:
the West**

Grade 7

**World Regional Studies:
the East**

Grade 8

U.S. History II: The
American Revolution –
Trans-Mississippi

school
district

Westward Interaction

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-7 World Regional Studies
Grade 8 U.S. History
HS Civics and Government
HS Modern World History
HS U.S. History

[Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Frameworks](#)
Effective February 2015
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Stephen Armstrong, Social Studies Standards Implementation
stephen.armstrong@ct.gov 860-713-6706

DELAWARE

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#) Courses:
Grade 9: Civics
Grade 9: **Geography**
Grade 10: Economics and Personal Finance
Grade 11: U.S. History (1 credit)*
Grade 12: World History
*state mandated, all others are recommended curriculum, not required.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6 Social Studies
Grade 7 Social Studies
Grade 8 U.S. History
*Recommended curriculum, not required, but includes geography at grade 6 & 7.

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-7
HS 9-12

[Delaware State Standards for Social Studies](#)
Effective 2016
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Preston Shockley, Social Studies contact
preston.shockley@doe.k12.de.us 302-735-4180 ext 4191

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [4](#) Courses:
World History & Geography I (1 credit)
World History & Geography II (1

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 **World Geography and Cultures**
Grade 7 **World History and**

credit)
U.S. History & Geography II (1 credit)
U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
District of Columbia History (0.5 credit)

Grade 8

Geography: Ancient World
U.S. History and Geography I: Growth and Conflict

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:
Grade 6 World Geography and Cultures

[District of Columbia Social Studies Pre-K through Grade 12 Standards](#)

Adopted 2006
Upcoming N/A

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 7 World History and Geography: Ancient World

Grade 8 U.S. History and Geography I: Growth and Conflict

Grade 9 World History and Geography I: Middle Ages to the Age of Revolution

Grade 10 World History and Geography II: The Industrial Revolution to the Modern World

Grade 11 U.S. History and Geography II: Industrial America to the Present

CONTACT INFORMATION

Scott Abbott, Director of Social Studies
scott.abbott@dc.gov

202-727-6436

FLORIDA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
U.S. History (1 credit)
World History (1 credit)
Economics with Financial Literacy (0.5 credit)
U.S. Government (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 Social Studies*
Grade 7 Social Studies*
Grade 8 Social Studies*

*Content includes **geography**, economics, world history, US history, civics & government, and financial literacy

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Cultural Geography; AP Human Geography; AICE Geography 1; AICE Geography 2; Pre-AICE Geography; IB Geography 1,2,3; IB Mid Years World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Florida Social Studies Standards](#)

Adopted 2008
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Michael DiPierro, Social Studies Education Specialist

michael.dipierro@fldoe.org

850-245-9773

GEORGIA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: **3** Courses:
U.S. History (1 credit)
World History (1 credit)
American Government/Civics (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--|
| Grade 6 | World Area Studies: Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, Europe and Australia |
| Grade 7 | World Area Studies: Africa, Southwest Asia (Middle East), Southern and Eastern Asia |
| Grade 8 | Georgia Studies |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-7 World Area Studies

Grade 8 Georgia Studies

[Georgia Standards of Excellence Social Studies](#)

Adopted June 2016

Effective 2017/2018

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Joy Hatcher, Social Studies Program Manager

jhatcher@doe.k12.ga.us

404-656-2093

HAWAII

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: **4** Courses:
U.S. History and Government (1 credit)
World History and Culture (1 credit)
Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit)
Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit)
Elective (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--|
| Grade 6 | World History to 1500 |
| Grade 7 | History of the Hawaiian Kingdom and Pacific Island Studies |
| Grade 8 | U.S. History from the Articles of Confederation through Reconstruction |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS Geography

[Hawaii Social Studies Standards](#)

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6 - 7
Grade 10 - 11

Adopted 2007
Currently under review

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rosanna Fukuda, Education Specialist Social Studies Program
rosanna_fukuda@notes.k12.hi.us 808-305-9713

IDAHO

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 5 Courses:
Gr. 9-12 U.S History (2 credits)
Gr. 9-12 American Government (2 credits)
Gr. 9-12 Economics (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Gr. 6-9 | Geography – Western Hemisphere |
| Gr. 6-9 | Geography – Eastern Hemisphere |
| Gr. 6-9 | World History and Civilization |
| Gr. 6-12 | U.S History I |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography; Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

6-9 Geography- Western Hemisphere
6-9 Geography- Eastern Hemisphere
6-9 World History and Civilization
6-12 U.S. History I

[Idaho Content Standards, Social Studies](#)
Adopted August 2016
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Peter Kavouras, Social Studies Coordinator
pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov 208-332-6975

ILLINOIS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 2 Courses:
U.S History (1 credit) OR a combination of U.S History and American Government
Civics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-12

[Illinois Social Science Standards](#)
Adopted June 2017
Effective 2017-2018
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Angelique Hamilton, College and Career Readiness Division

ahamilton@isbe.net

217-524-4832

INDIANA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 6

Courses:

U.S. History (2 credits)

U.S. Government (1 credit)

Economics (1 credit)

World History/Civilization OR

Geography/History of the World

(2 credits)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

People, Places, and Cultures in Europe and the Americas

Grade 7

People, Places and Cultures in Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific

Grade 8

U.S History: Growth and Development to 1877

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

African Studies; Asian Studies; Current Problems, Issues, and Events; Ethnic Studies; Indiana Studies; Latin American Studies; World Geography; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS Geography and History of the World

HS World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-8

HS U.S. History

[Indiana Academic Standards – Social Studies 2014](#)

Adopted March 2014

Updated (Grade 6-8) March 2015

Upcoming 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bruce Blomberg, Social Studies Specialist

bblomberg@doe.in.gov

317-232-9078

IOWA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:

American History (1 credit)

U.S. Government (0.5 credit)

Locally determined (remaining 1.5 credits)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6

World Regions and Cultures

Grade 7

Contemporary Global Studies

Grade 8

U.S. History and Civic Ideals

* Themes of standards, not required courses.

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS Geography

[Iowa Social Studies Standards](#)

Geography is a strand in:

Adopted May 2017

Grade 6-8

Upcoming N/A

HS U.S. History

HS World History

CONTACT INFORMATION

Stefanie Wager, Social Studies Contact

stefanie.wager@iowa.gov

515-725-7842

KANSAS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS*

Credits: [3](#)

Courses:

American History (1 credit)

U.S. Government (0.5 credit)

Each student should have World

History, U.S. History, and include

U.S Government, Constitution of

the U.S, concepts of economics

and **geography**

* determined at local level

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6

Ancient World History

Grade 7

Geography

Kansas History

Grade 8

U.S. History:

Constitutional Age to

International Expansion

* determined at the local level but follow this scope and sequence

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 7 Geography

HS World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 Ancient World History

Grade 8 U.S. History

[Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies](#)

Adopted April 2013

Upcoming 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Don Gifford, History, Government, and Social Studies Program Consultant

dgifford@ksde.org

785-296-3892

KENTUCKY

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#)

Courses:

Must follow the content in the

Kentucky Academic Standards for

Social Studies – Locally determined

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6

World Geography through an integrated social studies perspective

Grade 7

Integrated study of World History from early civilizations to 1500 AD

Grade 8 U.S. History from early inhabitants to Reconstruction
*Academic standards are set, but courses offered are locally determined

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS
Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Kentucky Academic Standards Social Studies](#)
Adopted June 2015
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lauren Gallicchio, Social Studies Consultant
lauren.gallicchio@education.ky.gov

502-564-2106 x4106

LOUISIANA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 4 Courses:
U.S History (1 unit)
Government OR Civics I & Civics II (1 unit)
2 units from the following:
- Western Civilization OR European History
- **World Geography**
- World History
- History of Religion
- Economics
- Psychology

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6 Social Studies
Grade 7 Social Studies
Grade 8 Social Studies
* Geography is embedded with standards

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World/Human Geography; AP Human Geography; World Regional Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:
HS World Geography
Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-8

[Louisiana Student Standards Social Studies](#)
Adopted 2011
Fully Implemented 2016-2017
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sharon Necaie, Supervisor of English Language Arts and Social Studies
sharon.necaie@la.gov

225-219-4513

MAINE

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 2 Courses:
Must include one year of American history and government, civics and personal finance

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Maine Learning Results – Social Studies](#)

Adopted October 2007

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Joe Schmidt, Social Studies Content Specialist

Joe.schmidt@maine.gov

207-624-6828

MARYLAND

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
World History (1 credit)
U.S. History (1 credit)
Local, state, and/or national
Government (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Grade 6 | World Geography |
| Grade 7 | World Geography |
| Grade 8 | U.S History |

* courses based on standards

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-8

HS Government

HS U.S. History

[Teaching and Learning Social Studies](#)

Adopted 2015

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bruce Lesh, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies

bruce.lesh@maryland.gov

410-767-0519

MASSACHUSETTS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
World History II: The Rise of the Nation State to the Present
U.S. History I: 1763 to 1877
U.S. History II: 1877 to 2001

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|---|
| Grade 6 | World Geography |
| Grade 7 | Ancient and Classical Civilizations in the Mediterranean to the Fall of |

Electives – U.S. Government
Electives– Economics

Grade 8

the Roman Empire
World History I: The World
from the Fall of Rome
through the Enlightenment

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:
Grade 6 World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 7 Ancient and Classical Civilizations

HS World History I

HS World History II

HS U.S. History I

HS U.S. History II

[Massachusetts History and Social
Science Framework](#)

Adopted August 2003

Currently under revision

Implementation set for July 2018- June
2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Literacy and Humanities

literacy@doe.mass.edu

781-338-6220

MICHIGAN

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#) Courses:

U.S. History and Geography (1
credit)

World History and Geography (1
credit)

Civics and Government (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

**Western Hemisphere
Studies**

Grade 7

**Eastern Hemisphere
Studies**

Grade 8

Integrated U.S. History

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS U.S. History and Geography

HS World History and Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 Western Hemisphere Studies

Grade 7 Eastern Hemisphere Studies

Grade 8 Integrated U.S. History

[Michigan Content Expectations – Social
Studies](#)

Adopted 2007

Currently under revision

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Cameron, Social Studies Consultant, Michigan Department of Education

cameronj3@michigan.gov

517-241-4285

MINNESOTA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3.5](#) Courses:
U.S. History (1 credit)
World History (1 credit)
Geography (0.5 credit)
Government and Citizenship (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 Minnesota Studies
Grade 7 U.S. Studies
Grade 8 **Global Studies**

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 Minnesota Studies

Grade 7 U.S. Studies

Grade 8 Global Studies

[Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards](#)

[Social Studies - 2011](#)

Revised 2011

Adopted May 2013

Implemented 2013-2014

Upcoming 2020-2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

mde.academic-standards@state.mn.us

651-582-8749

MISSISSIPPI

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [4](#) Courses:
U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to Present (1 credit)
World History from the Age of Enlightenment to the Present (1 credit)
Introduction to World Geography (0.5 credit)
U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)
Mississippi Studies (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 **World Geography and Citizenship**
Grade 7 World History from Prehistoric Era to the Age of Enlightenment
Grade 8 U.S. History from Exploration through Reconstruction

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Advanced World Geography; Local Resources Studies (0.5 credit); AP Human Geography; Minority Studies; Humanities; Local Culture; African American Studies; Survey of World Religions

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 6 World Geography and Citizenship

HS Introduction to World Geography

HS Advanced World Geography

[2011 Mississippi Social Studies Framework](#)

Adopted 2010

Effective 2011

Currently under revision

Adoption set for April 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jennifer Nance, Social Studies Content Specialist and Approved Course Manual
jennifer.nance@mdek12.org 601-359-3461

MISSOURI

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
Must include instruction in:
American History (1 credit) and
U.S & Missouri Constitutions
Government (0.5 credit)
Locally determined

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[6-12 Social Studies Grade Level Expectations](#)
Adopted 2016
Next revision 2019/2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dixie Johnson Grupe, Director of Social Studies
dixi.grupe@dese.mo.gov 573-751-0396

MONTANA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 2 Courses:
Locally determined

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Geography; U.S Geography; IB Geography; AP Human Geography; World History and Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Montana Standards for Social Studies](#)
Adopted October 2000
Upcoming Revision 2019
Adoption 2020
Implementation July 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

Colet Bartow, Director of Content Standards and Instruction
cbartow@mt.gov 406-444-3583

NEBRASKA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS*

Units: [30](#)
(Min. 3 yrs)

Courses:

Locally determined
* Content MUST include
civics/government, **geography**,
U.S. and world history, and
economic concepts

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

* Content MUST include
civics/government, **geography**, U.S. and
world history, and economic concepts

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Nebraska Social Studies Standards](#)
Adopted 2012
Upcoming 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Harris Payne, Social Studies Director
harris.payne@nebraska.gov

402-471-2449

NEVADA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#)

Courses:

World History and Geography (1
credit)
U.S. History 1877-Present (1
credit)
U.S. Government (Civics and
Economics) (1 credit)
Financial Literacy

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Grade 6-8 | Early World Civilizations (Prior to 1500) |
| Grade 6-8 | World Geography and Global Studies |
| Grade 6-8 | Early U.S. History and Civic Ideals |
| Grade 6-8 | Financial Literacy |

* Local districts decide length and
content of course, but follow these
standards

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6 -12 (except for Financial Literacy)

[Nevada Academic Content Standards for
Social Studies](#)
Revised December 2017
Full Implementation 2018-2019
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Brancamp, Office of Standards and Instructional Support
dbrancamp@doe.nv.gov 775-687-9180

Mary Holsclaw, Social Studies Lead, mholsclaw@doe.nv.gov

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [2.5](#) Courses:
U.S and New Hampshire
History (1 credit)
U.S. and New Hampshire
Government/Civics (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)
Choose between World History,
Global Studies OR **Geography**
(0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[K-12 Social Studies New Hampshire Curriculum Framework](#)
Adopted June 2006
Currently researching new standards for adoption

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ashley Frame, Curriculum and Instruction
ashley.frame@doe.nh.gov 603-271-6579

NEW JERSEY

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [15](#) Courses:
World History (5 credits)
U.S History including New Jersey
and of African Americans (2
years)
Integration of civics, economics,
geography, and global content in
all course offerings

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#)

[for Social Studies](#)
Adopted July 2014
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Beverly Plein, Social Studies Content Coordinator
beverly.plein@doe.state.nj.us 877-900-6960

NEW MEXICO

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3.5](#) Courses:
U.S. History and Geography (1 credit)
World History and Geography (1 credit)
Government (0.5 credit) and
Economics (0.5 credit)
New Mexico History (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[New Mexico Content Standards Social Studies](#)
Adopted June 2009
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Melissa Hernandez, melissa.hernandez@state.nm.us

Maggie Morrow, Maggie.morrow@state.nm.us

NEW YORK

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [8](#) Courses:
Regents U.S. History and Government (2 credit)
Diploma **Global History and Geography** (4 credit)
Participation in Government (1 credit)
Economics (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | U.S. History |
| Grade 8 | New York State History |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Learning Standards for Social Studies](#)

Adopted 1996
Upcoming N/A
[New York State K-8 Social Studies Framework](#)
[New York State 9-12 Social Studies Framework](#)
Revised February 2017

CONTACT INFORMATION

Robert Husain, Office of Curriculum and Instruction
robert.husain@nysed.gov 518-474-5922

NORTH CAROLINA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [4](#) Courses:
Civics and Economics (1 credit)
World History (1 credit)
American History I and American
History II (or AP U.S. History) (1
credit)
Elective

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 Social Studies (Focus on
World Geography, History
& Culture: Patterns of
Continuity and Change)
Grade 7 Social Studies (Focus on
World Geography, History
& Culture: Patterns of
Continuity and Change)
Grade 8 Social Studies: North
Carolina and the US:
Creation and Development
of the State and Nation

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

21st Century Global Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:
HS 21st Century Global Geography

[2010 Social Studies Essential Standards](#)

Adopted December 2010

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-8

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tiffany Perkins, Director - Division of K-12 Standards, Curriculum and Instruction
tiffany.perkins@dpi.nc.gov

NORTH DAKOTA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: [3](#) Courses:
U.S. History (1 credit)
U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit) OR
Problems and Democracy (1
credit)
Elective

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 Locally determined
Grade 7 Locally determined
Grade 8 Locally determined

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography; AP Human Geography; World Area Studies; World People Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-12

[North Dakota Content and Achievement Standards: Social Studies](#)

Adopted December 2007

Upcoming 2018/2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Robert Bauer, Assessment, Director, Primary/Secondary Education Programs

rgbauer@nd.gov

701-328-2224

OHIO

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:

American History (0.5 credit)

American Government (0.5 credit)

Social Studies electives (2 credit) *

- Starting with class of 2021, 0.5 unit of instruction in World History and Civilizations

* local district decision

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6

Regions and People of the Eastern Hemisphere

Grade 7

World Studies from 750BC to 1600 AD: Ancient Greece to the First Global Age

Grade 8

U.S. Studies from 1492 to 1877: Exploration through Reconstruction

* local district decision. May align with themes of standards.

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Geography; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-8

HS Contemporary World Issues

[Ohio's New Learning Standards: Social Studies Standards](#)

Adopted June 2010

Effective in full 2014-2015

Upcoming 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dwight Groce, Social Studies Consultant

dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov

614-387-3200

OKLAHOMA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:

U.S. History (1 credit)

U.S. Government (0.5 credit)

Oklahoma History (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

World Geography

Western Hemisphere

Grade 7

World Geography

Elective (1 credit)

Grade 8

Eastern Hemisphere

U.S. History: 1754-1877

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World Human Geography; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 6 World Geography Western Hemisphere

Grade 7 World Geography Eastern Hemisphere

HS World Human Geography

[Oklahoma Academic Standards: Social Studies](#)

Revised 2012

Updated in 2014 with Common Core repeal

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brenda Beymer-Chapman, Director of Social Studies/Personal Financial Literacy Education

Brenda.chapman@sde.ok.gov

405-522-3523

OREGON

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:

Global Studies (1 credit)

U.S. History (1 credit)

Government (0.5 credit)

Economics (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

World History and Geography – Western Hemisphere

Grade 7

World History – Eastern Hemisphere

Grade 8

U.S. History – 1765 to Reconstruction

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-12

[Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards](#)

Adopted August 2011

Currently under revision

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andrea Morgan, Social Studies Education Specialist

andrea.morgan@state.or.us

503-947-5772

PENNSYLVANIA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:

History and Government of U.S and Pennsylvania

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

Locally determined

Grade 7

Locally determined

Grade 8

Locally determined

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards](#)
Adopted 2009
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sally Flaherty, Social Studies Education Advisor
sflaherty@pa.gov

717-772-0636

RHODE ISLAND

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:
Locally determined

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations for Social Studies](#)
Adopted November 2012 (Geography strand)
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marie Parys, Coordinator of Rhode Island Historical Society
mparys@rihs.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:
U.S. History and the Constitution
(1 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)
U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
Elective (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|---|
| Grade 6 | Early Cultures to 1600 |
| Grade 7 | Contemporary Cultures: 1600 to the Present |
| Grade 8 | South Carolina: One of the United States |

***Geography** and History emphasis in
Grade 6 & 7

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS World Geography
Grade 6&7

[2011 South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards](#)

Adopted 2011

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 8

Currently being revised – 2020 South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards - Anticipated Implementation by May 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Elizabeth King, Standards and Learning, K-12 Social Studies Education Associate
eking@ed.sc.gov 803-734-0322

SOUTH DAKOTA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
Geography (0.5 credit)
U.S History (1 credit)
U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
World History (0.5 credit)
Elective (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6 World History,
Civics/Government,
Economics
Grade 7 **Geography**,
Civics/Government,
Economics
Grade 8 U.S. History,
Civics/Government,
Economics

* Major themes of standards.

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS Geography

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 7

[South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards](#)

Adopted August 2015

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sherry Dickerson, Secretary, Division of Learning and Instruction
sherry.dickerson@state.sd.us 605-773-3134

TENNESSEE

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
U.S. History and Geography
World History and Geography
U.S. Government and Civics
Economics

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 **World History and Geography**: Early Civilizations through the decline of the Roman Empire (5th Century)

| | |
|---------|---|
| Grade 7 | World History and Geography: The Middle Ages to the Exploration of the Americas |
| Grade 8 | United States History and Geography: Colonization of North America to Reconstruction and the American West |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS
World Geography; AP World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

- HS World Geography
- AP World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

- Grade 6-8
- HS U.S. History and Geography
- HS World History and Geography

[Social Studies Standards](#)

Adopted July 2013

Currently under revision

Implementation for 2019-2020 school year

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kadie Patterson, Coordinator of Social Studies

Kadie.Patterson@tn.gov

615-253-6031

TEXAS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: **3**

Courses:

- U.S. History Studies since 1877 (1 credit)
- U.S. Government (0.5 credit)
- Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (0.5 credit)
- World History Studies OR **World Geography Studies** (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6 **World Cultures**
- Grade 7 Texas History
- Grade 8 U.S. History from Early Colonial Period through Reconstruction

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Human Geography; IB Geography; Geography Information Systems (innovative course); Raster-Based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (innovative course); Spatial Technology & Remote Sensing (innovative course)

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

- Grade 6-12

[Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies](#)

Adopted August 2010

Effective 2011-2012 school year

Upcoming 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jason Rochester, Statewide Social Studies Coordinator
jason.rochester@tea.texas.gov 512-463-9581
Curriculum Division, curriculum@tea.texas.gov

UTAH

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
U.S. History (1 credit)
Geography for Life (0.5 credit)
World Civilizations (0.5 credit)
U.S. Government and Citizenship
(0.5 credit)
Elective (0.5 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Grade 6 | World Studies |
| Grade 7 | Utah Studies |
| Grade 8 | U.S. History I |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[Utah Core State Standards for Social Studies](#)

Adopted August 2010 (K-2 and 3-6)
Upcoming N/A
Adopted 2017 (Secondary Courses in 7-12)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Robert Austin, USBE Social Studies Specialist
Robert.austin@schools.utah.gov 801-538-7575

VERMONT

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: Local Courses:
Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) are locally-delineated set of content knowledge and skills. Require that schools' graduation requirements be rooted in demonstration of student proficiency, as opposed to time spent in classrooms.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Grade 6 | Locally determined |
| Grade 7 | Locally determined |
| Grade 8 | Locally determined |

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS (IDENTIFIED AS GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP)

Geography is a strand in:
Grade 6-12

[College, Career & Civic Life \(C3\)](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Martha Stahl Deiss, Education Agency
Martha.deiss@vermont.gov

802-479-1030

VIRGINIA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
U.S. and Virginia History
U.S. and Virginia Government
World History OR **World
Geography** OR BOTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 U.S. History 1865 to Present
Grade 7 Civics and Economics
Grade 8 **World History and
Geography to 1500**

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

World History and Geography 1500 to Present

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 U.S. History 1865 to Present

Grade 8 World History and Geography to 1500

HS World History and Geography 1500 to the Present

[History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools](#)

Adopted March 2015

Full implementation by Fall 2018

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Christonya Brown, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood
christonya.brown@dow.virginia.gov

804-225-2893

WASHINGTON

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
World History (1450 to Present)
(Meets SS elective and/or CWP credit)
U.S. History (1 credit)
**Contemporary World History,
Geography and Problems** (aka
Contemporary World Problems) (1 credit)
Civics (0.5 credit) * legislatively-mandated

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 **World Geography &
World History (Ancient
Civilizations)**
Grade 7 World History, continued &
Washington State History
and Government
Grade 8 U.S. History & Government

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-12

[K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards](#)

Adopted May 2008

Updated January 2013 (no new content added)

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Carol Coe, Social Studies Program Supervisor

carol.coe@k12.wa.us

360-725-6351

WEST VIRGINIA

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS*

Credits: 4

Courses:

World Studies OR an AP Social Studies course (1 credit)

U.S. Studies OR U.S Studies Comprehensive OR AP U.S.

History (1 credit)

Elective OR an AP Social Studies course (1 credit)

Civics for the Next Generation OR

AP Government and Politics (1 credit)

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS*

Grade 6 Social Studies

Grade 7 Social Studies

Grade 8 West Virginia Studies

* standards provide content for these courses.

* course sequence is prescribed at county level.

Civics and Contemporary Studies must have one of the U.S. courses as a prerequisite.

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography; AP Human Geography; Contemporary Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

HS Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6-8

HS World Studies

HS U.S. Studies (Comprehensive)

HS Contemporary Studies

HS Civics

[West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies](#)

Adopted July 2016

Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Allegra Kazemzadeh, Social Studies Coordinator

akazemzadeh@k12.wv.us

304-558-5325

WISCONSIN

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3

Courses:

Locally determined

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6

Locally determined

Grade 7 Locally determined
Grade 8 Locally determined

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

Geography; Human Geography; Human Systems; Physical Geography; Western Geography;
Western Cultures; Eastern Cultures; AP Human Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has benchmarks set at:
Grade 4, 8 and 12

[Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies](#)
Adopted 1998
Currently under revision

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kristen McDaniel

Kristen.mcdaniel@dpi.wi.gov

608-266-2207

WYOMING

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits: 3 Courses:
Must cover the five content areas
Locally determined

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 Locally determined
Grade 7 Locally determined
Grade 8 Locally determined

OTHER GEOGRAPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

N/A

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Geography has benchmarks set at:
Grade 2, 5, 8, and 12

[2014 Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards](#)
Adopted December 2014
Implemented fully by 2017-2018
Upcoming N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Laurie Hernandez, Director of Standards and Assessment

laurie.hernandez@wyo.gov

307-777-3469
