

## Charting a Path for Teaching the Revised Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science FAQ

### **Are these the standards that were put out two years ago or are these new standards?**

Public Act 101-0654 mandated the review and revision of the Social Science Learning Standards previously adopted in 2016. The revised standards were adopted in August of 2021 for implementation in the 2022-23 school year.

### **I am a retired administrator and a curriculum consultant. Can I register for the professional development opportunities described? If so, how can I go about doing so?**

Yes, we invite all curriculum consultants, content experts, and practitioners to participate in all ISBE social science professional learning opportunities. Please visit the [ISBE website](#) for a list of available webinar and professional development opportunities.

### **Can you please share when the drafted standards will be removed from the ISBE website and the new Social Science Learning Standards will be posted?**

As part of a larger agency initiative toward more consistent branding and identity standards, the Standards and Instruction team is working with Communications staff to prepare the final version of the standards document. An announcement will be issued in ISBE's Weekly Message, and an email will be sent to teachers who have credentials to teach social science as identified in the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). When the document has been released.

### **How do I sign up for the Illinois social studies teachers mailing list?**

The Social Science Network website and mailing list will be made available on Oct. 18. An invitation to sign up for the listserv will be shared in ISBE's Weekly Message and an email will be sent to teachers with credentials to teach social science as identified in ELIS.

### **How do we access the TEAACH Act resources?**

Please visit ISBE's [Standards and Instructions webpage](#). You will find several resources under the TEAACH - Public Act 102-0044 dropdown:

- [TEAACH Act Fact Sheet](#) 
- [TEAACH ACT Resources](#) 
- [TEAACH Act Resource Guide - DRAFT](#)

### **Why are the complexities created only for middle school students?**

The middle school standards are banded by levels of complexity rather than grade levels. Most social science classrooms are composed of a wide array of ability levels and challenges, so a complexity continuum was developed to meet the varying cognitive needs of adolescents and to address the range of difficulties of the standards.

Many of the skills addressed in the standards build on one another. Depending on readiness levels and depth of understanding of the disciplinary concepts, students may move through the complexity levels that are appropriate for their strengths. This process allows teachers to differentiate content based on academic and developmental needs. Students continue to build and practice skills and disciplinary concepts as they progress through the grade levels. Progression and utilization can be enhanced using the curricular content as the avenue of implementation. Ideally, students should have practiced and experienced the less, moderate, and more complex standards in preparation for high school by the end of eighth grade.

### **Will the Social Science Learning Standards document be in a different format that better represents the standards across the grades or is the current format the final one?**

The proposed standards reflect a dramatic shift from the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework and the work of other states. The task force felt strongly that grade span standards at the elementary level resulted in curricula and instructional confusion. It was therefore decided to structure the standards accordingly: Grade-specific standards were written for kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth grade, and fifth grade. In contrast, standards were written for the grade spans of Grades 6–8 and 9–12.

### **Are you going to discuss the Essential Elements to help out the special education teachers?**

Department staff will be working in collaboration with Special Education and Multilingual departments to identify specific supports for students with special needs, including English learners.

### **Are there going to be "I can" statements to help support teachers and students? The standards are very overwhelming to read.**

At this time, ISBE does not plan to develop "I can..." statements. Currently, our resources are going toward the professional development related to the standards and the development of standards-aligned resource guides.

### **When is the navigator expected to be ready?**

The standards navigator is expected to be launched in spring 2023.

**Will administrators have an opportunity to earn Administrator Academy credit?**

At this time, only PD credit hours are being offered.