

Louisiana Believes

Social Studies Standards Review Process
2020-2021

History and Context

The Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies were last revised in 2010-2011.

BESE Bulletin 741, §2301 states, “The Louisiana content standards shall be subject to review and revision to maintain rigor and high expectations for teaching and learning. Such review of each content area shall occur at least once every seven years.”

Louisiana Standards

Louisiana's standards should be rigorous and prepare students for college and the workplace, as determined by educators, experts, and business and industry leaders.

Louisiana's vision is to build social studies standards that equip students to be informed, responsible citizens. Our goal is to graduate students who

- are knowledgeable about the world,
- possess critical thinking skills, and
- are able to participate as productive and competent citizens.

Revision Goals

1. Shift to an **inquiry-based approach** with a balanced focus between acquisition of knowledge and disciplinary skills.
2. Create a more **coherent sequence of content**, so students are better able to build and retain knowledge over time.
3. Strengthen instruction at the **elementary level** to ensure students are prepared for secondary and post-secondary coursework.
4. Better integrate the historical **perspectives** of people from all different backgrounds.
5. Provide students with opportunities to utilize **strong critical thinking skills** to evaluate and synthesize information.

Standards Review Structure

Steering Committee

- 26 members who will oversee the standards review process

Content Expert Workgroups

- 18 members per workgroup
- 2 workgroups: K- Grade 5, Grade 6 - Grade 12
- Given their expertise, some educators from the Steering Committee will also serve on a Content Expert Workgroup.

Steering Committee Structure

A 26-member steering committee will oversee and coordinate the standards review process pursuant to BESE, monitor progress, ensure alignment across grade levels and subjects, and make final recommendations to BESE.

Due to the technical nature of the work required to review content standards, at least half of the committee will be K-12 Louisiana educators, including at least one educator each from a charter and a nonpublic school system.

The remaining members of the steering committee will be nominees from higher education, business and industry, and the community.

Steering Committee Composition

- 3 elementary teachers
- 3 middle school teachers
- 3 high school teachers
- 3 higher education representatives
- 1 SPED educator
- 1 EL educator
- 1 school leader
- 3 school system content supervisors
- 1 Tribal leader or nominee from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- 2 parents
- 2 community members
- 3 students

Content Expert Workgroups

Each content expert workgroup will consist of 18 members, including members of the steering committee.

1. Kindergarten – Grade 5
2. Grade 6 - Grade 12

Selection Process

A self-nomination process will be used for seats for both the steering committee and the content expert workgroups. The Department will leverage all of its communication channels to publicize the release of the application.

This process will ensure

- all interested Louisiana educators have the opportunity to apply,
- the committee represents all regions of the state,
- the committee represents the demographic diversity of the state, and
- the committee has expertise in historically marginalized groups.

The review process will include opportunities for the public to weigh in on every standard. In addition, all committee meetings will be open to the public.

2020-2021 Timeline

December	Release application to serve on committee
March	Seek approval of committee at BESE meeting
March-July	Conduct committee meetings
July-August	Post for public comment
October	Present standards to BESE
2021-2022	Provide educator professional development; implement in 2022-2023

Meeting Procedures

Committee meetings: Meetings of the standards committee will be advertised, open to the public, and held pursuant to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Public comment at meetings: Public comment will be received during each committee meeting and prior to any votes. Members of the public may also submit written comments for the record.

Content of public comment: All public comment must relate to the review and development of standards, not other matters of policy.

Committee leadership: Each committee and workgroup will be facilitated by a chairman.

Voting: Content workgroup members will work together to finalize any recommended revisions or additions to standards. Votes will then be taken as a slate, not by individual standard or edit, to move proposed standards forward to the committee and to BESE.

Voting proxies: No proxies will be allowed for voting purposes. Participants must be in attendance to vote.