

SOCIAL STUDIES

Introduction

The great architects of American public education, such as Thomas Jefferson, Horace Mann, and John Dewey, believed that every student must be well versed in our nation's history, the principles and practices which support and sustain citizenship, and the institutions that define our government. Understandings of commerce and geography were critical to their thinking as well. In essence, Jefferson, Mann, and Dewey viewed the study of social studies as critical to the mission of public schools. According to the National Council for the Social Studies: *advocates of citizenship education cross the political spectrum, but they are bound by a common belief that our democratic republic will not sustain unless students are aware of their changing cultural and physical environments; know the past; read, write, and think deeply; and act in ways that promote the common good.* (C3 Framework for Social Studies, 2013).

A strong Social Studies education depends upon a clear understanding of its interrelated disciplines and inclusion of Maine's Guiding Principles. Without knowledge of the geography and economics of earlier times, history offers only lists of people, events, and dates. Without knowledge of history, the institutions of American government and the dynamics of today's global economy are difficult to understand. Although social studies curricula vary in their breadth and depth, the Social Studies Standards reflect a focus on government, history, geography, personal finance and economics as the pillars of the content, with other disciplines within the social sciences deemed important, but not essential.

Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles guide education in Maine and should be reflected throughout Social Studies curriculum. Examples of how students can show evidence of those guiding principles in Social Studies may include:

- A. Clear and Effective Communicator:** Students research and use background knowledge to give audiovisual presentations about current and historical issues.
- B. Self-Directed and Lifelong Learner:** Students generate questions and explore primary and secondary sources to answer those questions while demonstrating a growth mindset.
- C. Creative and Practical Problem Solver:** Students draw conclusions about current and historical problems using valid research and critical thinking.
- D. Responsible and Involved Citizen:** Students practice and apply the duties of citizenship through the exercise of constitutional rights.

E. Integrative and Informed Thinker: Students compare and contrast to analyze point of view and differentiate between reliable and unreliable primary and secondary sources.

Performance Expectations that include the application of the Guiding Principles through Social Studies knowledge and skills are denoted in the standards with an asterisk (*).

Skills in Social Studies:

The application of skills in Social Studies is crucial to any curriculum. Best practices in Social Studies reflect curriculum, instruction, and assessment that give students opportunities to demonstrate research and develop positions on current Social Studies issues. Students will be asked to identify key words and concepts related to research questions and locate and access information by using text features. Additionally, students will demonstrate facility with note-taking, organizing information, and creating bibliographies. Students will distinguish between primary and secondary sources as well as evaluate and verify the credibility of the information found in print and non-print sources. Equally important is that students use additional sources to resolve contradictory information.

Key Ideas in the Social Studies Standards:

Growth mindset - Our mindset includes beliefs about our abilities and qualities that include intelligence, creativity or musicality. Having a growth mindset means that students know that their abilities and strengths can change or develop, and that those changes are within their control.

Understand - The word “understand” appears in performance expectations throughout the Social Studies Standards. It refers to a variety of different levels of thinking and was used intentionally to serve as an umbrella term for the cognitive demand that is described by the descriptors beneath the performance expectations. Look to the grade level expectation for grades K-5 or to the grade span expectations in spans 6-8 and 9-12 (Foundational or Developmental as noted by “F” or “D”) to define the level of cognitive demand for student performance.

Various -The Social Studies Standards refer to “various” peoples, nations, regions of the world, historical eras, and enduring themes. School administrative units should develop a local curriculum that assists students in gaining a coherent, broad perspective on a variety of peoples, nations, regions, historical eras, and enduring themes.

Major Enduring Themes - The term “major enduring themes” is used in several places in the Social Studies Standards. This term refers to general topics or issues that have been relevant over a long period of time. Using a consistent set of themes can serve as a framework within which other concepts, topics, and facts can be organized. It can also help students make connections between events within and across historical eras, and use history to help make informed decisions. The Civics and Government, Personal Finance and Economics, Geography, and History Standards all include performance expectations that address individual, cultural, international, and global connections. It will be up to the School Administrative Units to determine whether they use these performance expectations as an opportunity to integrate across the disciplines of the social studies or address them separately. The “enduring themes,” some of which overlap, include:

- Freedom and Justice
- Conflict and Compromise
- Technology and Innovation
- Unity and Diversity
- Continuity and Change Over Time
- Supply and Demand

Eras – School Administrative Units (SAU) should develop a coherent curriculum that provides students with a balanced exposure to the major eras of United States and World History. The term “various eras” in this document refers to those eras that are selected by an SAU to build a cohesive, balanced understanding. The “eras,” some of which overlap, include:

Eras in United States History*	Eras in World History*
<p>1. Beginnings to 1607: Migration, contact, and exchange between Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans.</p> <p>2. 1607 to 1754: Conflict and competition -- Europeans and Native Americans; emergence of distinctive Colonial and Native societies.</p> <p>3. 1754 to 1800: Social, political, and economic tensions -- Revolution and the Early National Period.</p> <p>4. 1800 to 1848: Defining and extending democratic ideals during rapid economic, territorial, and demographic changes.</p> <p>5. 1844 to 1877: Regional tensions and civil war.</p> <p>6. 1865 to 1898: Move from agricultural to industrialized society.</p> <p>7. 1890 to 1945: Domestic and global challenges; debate over Government’s role and the role of the US in the world.</p> <p>8. 1945 to 1980: Challenges with prosperity, living up to ideals, and unfamiliar international responsibilities.</p> <p>9. 1980 to present: Cultural debates, adaptation to economic globalization and revolutionary changes in science and technology.</p> <p><i>*All eras are circa.</i></p>	<p>1. Beginnings to 600 BCE: Technological and environmental transformations.</p> <p>2. 600 BCE to 600 CE: Organization and reorganization of human societies.</p> <p>3. 600 to 1450: Regional and interregional interactions.</p> <p>4. 1450 to 1750: Political, social, economic and global interactions led to revolutions.</p> <p>5. 1750 to 1900: Industrialization and global integration.</p> <p>6. 1900 to present: Accelerating global change and realignments.</p>

Spiraling K-12 - A course of study in which students will see the same topics throughout their school career, with each encounter increasing in complexity and reinforcing previous learning. The Social Studies Standards and performance expectations have been created in order to reflect a progression of increasing complexity from K-5 and between the 6-8, and 9-diploma grade spans.

Maine Statutes Related to Social Studies

Title 20-A: Education §4722. High school diploma standards.

1. Minimum instructional requirements. A comprehensive program of instruction must include a minimum 4-year program that meets the curriculum requirements established by this chapter and any other instructional requirements established by the commissioner and the school board. [2009, c. 313, §15 (AMD).]
2. Required subjects. Courses in the following subjects shall be provided in separate or integrated study programs to all students and required for a high school diploma: Social studies and history, including American history, government, civics and personal finance--2 years; [2013, c. 244, §1 (AMD).]

Title 20-A MRSA §4706, as amended by PL 1991, c. 655, §4, is further amended to read:

§4706. Instruction in American history, Maine studies and Maine Native American history.

The following subjects are required: Maine Studies... American History... Maine Native American history (including Maine tribal governments, Maine Native American culture, Maine Native American territories, and Maine Native American economic systems).

Maine Native American history and culture must be taught in all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.

Maine Native Americans - The phrase “Maine Native Americans” refers to the four Maine Native American tribes – the Penobscot, the Passamaquoddy, the Micmac, and the Maliseet.

Kindergarten

Strand: Civics & Government

Standard: Students draw on concepts from civics and government to understand political systems, power, authority, governance, civic ideals and practices, and the role of citizens in the community, Maine, the United States, and the world.

Performance Expectation:

Civics & Government 1: Students understand key ideas and processes that characterize democratic government in the community and the United States by identifying community workers and volunteers and the roles they play in promoting the common good.

Civics & Government 2: Students understand key ideas and processes that characterize democratic government in the community and the United States by recognizing symbols, monuments, celebrations, and leaders of local government.

Civics & Government 3: Students understand the concepts of *rights, duties, responsibilities, and participation* by explaining the purpose of school/classroom rules and local laws encountered in daily experiences to promote the common good and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Civics & Government 4: Students understand the concepts of *rights, duties, responsibilities, and participation* by describing classroom *rights, duties, and responsibilities* including how students participate in some classroom decisions and are obliged to follow classroom rules.

Civics & Government 5: Students understand civic aspects of classroom traditions and decisions by identifying and comparing diverse interests and opinions related to classroom traditions and decisions.

Strand: Personal Finance and Economics

Standard: Students draw from concepts and processes in personal finance to understand issues of money management, saving, investing, credit, and debt; students draw from concepts and processes in economics to understand issues of production, distribution, consumption in the community, Maine, the United States, and the world.

Performance Expectation:

Personal Finance: Students understand the nature of personal finance as well as key foundational ideas by describing how money has value and can be traded for goods and services.

Economics: Students understand the nature of economics as well as key foundational ideas by describing how people make choices to meet their needs and wants.

Global Connections: Students understand the influence of economics on individuals and groups in the United States and the World, including Maine Native Americans, by identifying how individuals, families, and communities are part of an economy.

Strand: Geography

Standard: Students draw on concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the community, Maine, the United States, and the world.

Performance Expectation:

Geography 1: Students understand the nature and basic ideas of geography by identifying questions about their world and explaining that geography is the study of the Earth's surface and peoples. *

Geography 2: Students understand the influence of geography on individuals and their immediate surroundings by identifying the impacts of geographic features on individuals and families.

Strand: History

Standard: Students draw on concepts and processes using primary and secondary sources from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

Performance Expectation:

History 1: Students understand the nature of history by describing history as stories of the past and identifying questions related to social studies. *

History 2: Students understand the nature of history as well as the key foundation of ideas by applying terms such as "before" and "after" in sequencing events.

History 3: Students understand historical aspects of the uniqueness and commonality of individuals and groups, including Maine Native Americans, by explaining how individuals and families share both common and unique aspects of culture, values, and beliefs through stories, traditions, religion, celebrations, or the arts.