

Draft Additions to the Introduction to the Colorado Academic Standards for Social Studies

In addition to responding to public feedback on the 2020 version of the Colorado Academic Standards for social studies, the social studies standards review and revision committee was required to implement and respond to new legislative requirements for the standards.

- *House Bill 19-1192: History, Culture, and Civil Government in Education Commission recommendations.* This bill requires that the recommendations from this commission be considered during the standards review process.
- *House Bill 20-1336: Holocaust and Genocide Studies.* This bill required the State Board to adopt standards for Holocaust and genocide by July 2021.
- *House Bill 21-1200: Revise Financial Literacy Standards.* This bill requires the inclusion of new topics in the personal financial literacy standards.
- *House Bill 21-1103: Media Literacy Standards.* This bill requires the review process to consider the recommendations of the Media Literacy Advisory Committee established under House Bill 19-1110.
- *Senate Bill 21-067: Strengthening Civics Education.* This bill requires the inclusion of specific topics in the civics standards.

House Bill 19-1192 Requirements

The bill created the History, Culture, Social Contributions, and Civil Government in Education Commission (the 1192 Commission) which is composed of sixteen members who are appointed by the Governor of Colorado. The 1192 Commission was charged with:

- Making recommendations to the State Board of Education and CDE, in conjunction with the 6-year standards review, for revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards for history and civics so that those standards and programs reflect the history, culture, social contributions, and civil government of the United States and Colorado, including the contributions and influence of American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) individuals within these minority groups; the intersectionality of significant social and cultural features within these communities; and the contributions and persecution of religious minorities;
- Working cooperatively and in conjunction with the CDE and local school boards to assist local education agencies in developing and promoting programs that engage students in the process of discovery and interpretation of the subjects and topics set forth in the law;
- Meeting at least twice a year; and
- Participating in community forums to discuss adopted content standards in civics, including those topics set out in section 22-1-104(1) which public schools must cover.

As a result of the passage of House Bill 19-1192, Colorado law also requires that the:

...history, culture, and social contributions of minorities, including, but not limited to, the American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, shall and Asian Americans, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals within these minority groups, and the intersectionality of significant social and cultural features within these communities, and the contributions and persecution of religious minorities must be taught in all the public schools of the state.

Local school districts are further required to convene a community forum at least every six years to enable all interested persons to discuss adopted content standards in civics (section 22-1-104(3)(a) C.R.S.).

The social studies standards review and revision committee reviewed the recommendations of the 1192 Commission and determined which recommendations to include based on how well aligned the historic, cultural, social, and civil contributions of the named groups were to the scope and sequence of the social studies standards.

The committee understands the importance of the social studies history and civics standards to reflect the contributions of the groups articulated within House Bill 19-1192. The committee considered how to avoid using repetitive language that had the potential to minimize the contributions of enumerated groups while also recognizing the contributions of groups not named in the statute for a full picture of U.S. and Colorado history. To accomplish this, the committee, when relevant to the scope and sequence of the standards used the House Bill 19-1192 enumerated groups and at other times opted to use more expansive terminology such as: various peoples and cultures; diverse groups, identities, and cultures; and multiple and diverse perspectives.

Finally, it is important that every child in every classroom each day in Colorado feels respected and included and is treated with dignity. The social studies standards are premised on this common value.

An effective social studies education incorporates diverse perspectives and acknowledges that perceptions of events are affected by race, ethnicity, culture, religion, education, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and personal experience. The traditional motto of the United States is “E pluribus unum” – out of many, one. A social studies education that does justice to the remarkable diversity of our country must tell the histories of individuals and groups, and honor a plurality of life stories while acknowledging our ongoing struggle to achieve a more perfect union. Teaching how the concepts of freedom, equality, the rule of law, and human rights have influenced United States and world history necessarily involves discussions of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and other characteristics. Effective instruction challenges students to value their own heritage while embracing our common ideals and shared experiences as they develop their own rigorous thinking about accounts of events. (Adapted from the Massachusetts Department of Education)

A Note About LGBTQ References

The purpose of H.B. 19-1192 was to ensure that the history, culture and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals were recognized in Colorado's history and civics standards. The requirement to teach about the history, culture and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals is not an obligation to teach comprehensive human sexuality education which is optional under state law (C.R.S. 22-1-128). School districts are not required to offer human sexuality instruction, and parents may excuse their children from human sexuality instruction without penalty. Moreover, when instruction on human sexuality education is delivered it must be done only in a method that is compliant with local education provider policies and state statute including being “comprehensive, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, inclusive of a positive youth development framework, and medically accurate” and meeting the other content requirements in section 22-1-128.

More information on comprehensive human sexuality education can be found below.

- [Policies and Guidelines](#)

- [Colorado Academic Standards, Comprehensive Health](#)

Finally, federal and state law prohibit discrimination in public schools. Section 22-32-109 C.R.S. requires school district boards of education to adopt written policies specifying that:

The schools in the district are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.

More information on federal and state support preventing discrimination can be found below.

- [US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights](#)
- [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#)
- [2022 Colorado Bullying Prevention and Education Best Practices and Model Policy](#)