

NOAH WEBSTER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MODEL POLICY

TO: TBD
FROM: Noah Webster Educational Foundation
RE: Social Studies Curriculum Requirements
DATE: TBD

This model policy seeks to establish clearer standards for social studies curricula and lesson plans to encourage civic engagement and a firsthand understanding of primary sources, and to prevent ideological bias.

Social Studies Curriculum Requirements and Review

AUTHORS:

- Noah Webster Educational Foundation

BACKGROUND: School boards are responsible for ensuring that all curriculum within their district meets state standards and supports a high-quality education. School boards should also promote a strong civics education and patriotic spirit in alignment with *Executive Order 14190*. By promoting civic engagement and patriotism and ensuring curricula are free from ideological bias, school boards also foster students' critical thinking skills so they can engage with the founders' ideas in practical and creative ways. This policy corresponds to NWEF's '[Social Studies: Curriculum Selection & Culture War](#)' training series for school board members.

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Subject: Social Studies Curriculum Requirements and Review

I. Description of Policy

This School Board/School Division is responsible for knowing and approving the content of curricula and resources in its schools. This policy outlines the appropriate procedures and content for social studies curricula, resources, and lesson plans. This policy outlines the standards for social studies curricula and lesson plans, to be reviewed by the school board before implementation.

- A. School boards have an obligation to confirm that all programs instituted as part of the district curriculum are of the highest standard and are beneficial to the students within their district.
- B. While evaluating school programs and resources, school board members should be mindful of federal, state, and local policies on the content of programs, specifically, *Executive Order 14190*.

II. School Board Review Process and Responsibilities

The purpose of schools within the [school board district] is to ensure that all students receive high-quality instruction. As such, the [school board district] will take steps to improve social studies and civics education by thoroughly reviewing all social studies curricula before implementation. The school board will also take necessary steps to ensure that lesson plans remain free of ideological bias. School board members should ensure a clear set of standards is used when reviewing social studies curricula, including developing districtwide standards that all social studies curricula must meet, in addition to the already-enforced state learning standards.

III. Standards for Social Studies Curriculum

School board members should ensure that all social studies curricula are thoroughly reviewed, including lesson plans, when deemed necessary. To ensure that social studies curriculum and lesson plans are of high quality, the following standards should be met:

- A. Will be free from activities encouraging ideological bias, such as mandatory or voluntary acts of activism or attendance at activist events during school hours or for class credit.
- B. Will require students to review and evaluate primary source documents critically and individually before engaging in classroom discussion.
- C. Will emphasize the importance of civic engagement: an understanding of American principles; knowing how to vote in local, state, and national elections; engaging in the local community, and working towards creating a more perfect union.