Department of Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment

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AGENDA TITLE:
Approval of Middle School Social Studies Textbook Adoptions for Grades 5-8

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
As part of the GPPSS (Grosse Pointe Public School System) K-12 curriculum cycle, the Middle School Social Studies Department has completed a comprehensive, multi-year review of core instructional materials. The department used the C3 Framework to guide inquiry-based learning and evaluated materials in alignment with the Michigan K-12 Social Studies Standards. Teachers, parents, and students participated in the review and pilot process.

Starting in the year 2022, the K-12 social studies department participated in a public forum and developed a scope and sequence document. On 7 November 2023, the middle school social studies department met, conducted a needs assessment, and formally began Phase I of the review process. On 9 January 2024, the group entered into its Phase II work. Together, they aligned standards, researched materials, piloted materials, and reviewed current textbook materials for relevance, as well as, usability. Feedback emphasized the need for updated content, digital integration, and materials that support student engagement, diverse perspectives, and disciplinary thinking.

As part of this ongoing curriculum update, new textbooks for Grades 5-8 are deemed appropriate and desperately needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Middle School Social Studies Department recommends the adoption of TCI Textbook materials for grades 5-8.

The materials will consist of:

- Consumable books for all 5th-grade students
- Classroom sets of textbooks for all teachers
- Digital textbook licenses for all students in grades 5-8
- Digital Teacher textbook licenses and online professional development

RATIONALE:

Currently, the textbooks being used in the classrooms across the GPPSS are outdated. Teachers have been supplementing resources to develop lessons and units of instruction due to the materials that are over 20 years old. The TCI products align with the new state and national standards, provide reading access to students with varying levels of need, and support multiple learning styles. Reviews of the materials highlight accessibility, relevance, visual design, and critical thinking support.

REQUEST:

Approval for the GPPSS to purchase and implement the TCI textbooks and materials beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. This supports the GPPSS strategic plan to ensure equity in instructional resources and support standards-based, inquiry-driven instruction.

TOTAL COST:

- TCI Four-year Quote >>$180,860.60
    - 50% Year 1: $90,430
    - 25% Year 2: $45,215
    - 25% Year 3: $45,215
    - 0% Year4: $0

ATTACHMENTS:

Linked above.

TIMELINE:

- **March 4, 2026** – EPLC Committee
- **March 23, 2026** – BOE First Read
- **April 6, 2026** – BOE Vote

SUBMITTED BY:
Rodger Hunwick, Principal – Brownell Middle School
AmyJo Callaway-Burke, Department Chair – Brownell Middle School
Alexis Lecznar, Department Chair – Parcells Middle School
Rebecca Churray, Department Chair – Pierce Middle School

Middle School Social Studies

Wednesday, March 4th

EPLC Timeline 2022-2023

2022-2023:

- October 3, 2022: Public Forum and Sneeze It Out Activity
- October-December: Form Committees
- December 13, 2022: Initial K-12 Committee Meeting - SWOT analysis
- December-January: Grade Level Subcommittees formed
- January 30, 2023: Department Chairs met David Hales and Sean McBrady plan for May Professional Development (C3 Training)
- May 9, 2023: Half day Committee work with Sean McBrady
- November 7, 2023: SWOT Analysis (see next slide)
- November 15, 2023: Dept. Chairs & Admin. Liaison Plan for Pilot/s

SWOT Analysis (7 Nov. 2023)

Strengths

- Variety of experiences within the cohort (i.e. Veterans who know what's worked & Rookies who bring outside knowledge) who bring knowledge of outside tools to enhance the curriculum
- Teachers are able to weave the curriculums together with limited funds and resources
- Parents > Supportive & bring resources to

Strengths

Weaknesses

- Lack of Centralized Resources across GPPSS
- Lack of Centralized Topics and/or Curriculum Map
- 6/7 Split and/or Alignment -> World History
- No Up-To-Date Text/s
- Limited Collaboration Opportunities across schools
- Free Resources Changing to Paid Resources (ex. *Newsela*)

Weaknesses

- Collaborate with other schools to hear a variety of range of voices
- Professional Development (Council for SS ISD)
- Gather Resources that are up-to-date
- Strengthen our students learning experiences and get better outcomes
- Poach from other districts & have conversations with them
- More Literacy & Writing

Opportunities

- Losing Momentum
- People not following what others are teaching in other buildings
- Funding
- Teacher Autonomy
- Lack of Funding for Online Resources
- Overwhelmed by the task at hand (patience is needed and we're tired)
- Difficulty gathering materials from so many sources/sites
- Not enough time/opportunity to collaborate with teachers who teach same subject, topic, and/or grade level

Threats

Grosse Pointe Public School System

GPPSS MS Social Studies Curriculum (Tentative) Timeline

7 November 2023

Curriculum Study Checklist & Organize >> SWOT >> **PHASE 1**

2023/24SY + Summer 2024

Phase 2

Determine SS Department Workdates (Release Time + Paid Summer Dates) – Coordinate w/ Elementary/HS Staff as needed >> **PHASE 2**

1st Curriculum Work Date >> January 9, 2024

2nd Curriculum Work Date >> February 6th, 2024 >> Vote on HMH Pilot >> Gain Access Code & prep for use with students

3rd Curriculum Work Date >> March 19, 2024

Presentation by HMH for Pilot Spring 2024

Pacing Guide 7th-grade created

Sept. 2024 - Dec. 2025

Full K-12 Committee Work + MS Level Work as Needed >> PHASE 2

Phase 2 Extension Granted

Nov. 2024 - EPLC Presentation of DBQ Project + Grant by Alexis L.

Dec. 2024 – Pilot second product + textbook > TCI

Jan. 2025 Products provided to staff

24 Feb. 2025 Curriculum Workday – AGENDA

March 2026

Present Curriculum to the EPLC for Approval

April/May 2026

Present Curriculum to BOE (Board of Education) for Approval

May 2026

Phase 3

2026-2029

Phase 4

EPLC Timeline 2024-Present

2024-Present:

- January 9, 2024: 5-8 Social Studies Curriculum Workday
- February 6, 2024: 5-8 Social Studies Meeting on Pilot Products
- April 4, 2024: GPPSS k-12 Curriculum Update & Review w/ K. Howell
- April 17, 2024: HMH Pilot Planning Meeting
- May 13, 2024: HMH Pilot Launch Meeting
- March 19, 2025: 5-8 Social Studies Curriculum Workday
- May 1, 2024: Pilot Follow-up Meeting & TCI Pilot Launch
- May 20, 2024: 5-8 Social Studies Curriculum Workday
- October 2024: Phase 2 extension to Pilot TCI
- November 13, 2024: DBQ Presentation to EPLC
- December 2024: Pilot TCI Products
- February 24, 2025: 5-8 Social Studies Curriculum Workday with TCI

Short Term Recommendations

- Continue with the approved Michigan K-12 Standards for Social Studies.
- Continue to implement with fidelity the DBQ Project (**D**ocument **B**ased **Q**uestions that instruct students to analyze, organize, and articulate the strengths and weakness of “evidence”)
- Purchase the new TCI textbook for 5-8 Social Studies
- Support the professional development of GPPSS 5-8 teachers as provided by TCI product purchase recommendation

Long Term Recommendations

- Expand interdisciplinary and cross-curricular opportunities (e.g. social studies and ELA via DBQ Project Initiative).
- Build and organize a singular depository for all social studies courses and district-level resources.
- Develop vertical articulation across grades K-12.
- Strengthen assessment literacy and calibration.

Rationale for Request

- Age of current textbooks and/or lack of resources
  - Current textbooks in each class are in rough physical shape, some resources are on a CD-ROM (even VHS).
- Updated Grade Level Content Expectations necessitates a new textbook that align with the State of Michigan standards.
- Feedback from teachers regarding the best resources to allow us to support the implementation of new standards.
- The proposed TCI textbooks and 5th-grade consumables feature updated cultural information and more opportunities for student engagement and technology-based learning.

Grosse Pointe
Public School System

Feedback from Pilot Team

Here's what the Team's Saying

Interactive & Hands On Activities
Station & Activity Based

Great Maps, Charts, & Graphs
Visual Aids & Maps

Physical & Digital Books
Read-A-Loud & Reading Level Options

Teacher Guide is GREAT
Well Organized & Material is Chunked

Integrates with Platforms
Schoology or Clever

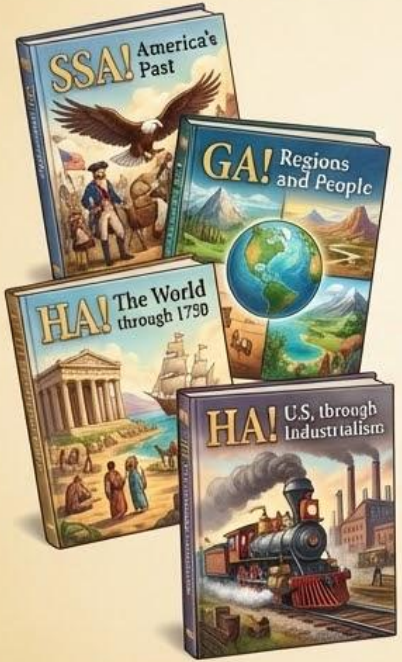
Access to In-depth Materials
One Stop Social Studies Shop

Grosse Pointe PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

TCI

What is included

Text Books



- SSA! America's Past
- GA! Regions and People
- HA! The World through 1750
- HA! U.S, through Industrialism

Program Resources & Materials

- Teachers Guides for all texts
- Classroom testbook sets for teachers

- Activity Cards for all texts
- Digital license for all students
- 5th-grade consumable texts

Submitted by

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