

K-12 Social Studies Curriculum



Adopted May 5, 2026

Acknowledgements

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We would also like to recognize

The Board Curriculum Committee, the Fairbanks North Star Board of Education, and the many teachers, administrators, parents, and community members who have provided input during the curriculum revision process.

Philosophy and Mission Statement

The goal of social studies education in the FNSBSD is to cultivate lifelong civic-minded critical thinkers. This empowers learners to conduct evidence-based research, thoughtfully evaluate sources, and develop deep cross-cultural and historical understanding. This foundational knowledge enables learners to integrate knowledge across disciplines; promoting meaningful connections to contemporary, local, and global affairs.

Explanation of Terms

Theme: Topic or concept around which instructional content is organized.

Thematic Unit: Instructional unit organized around a theme.

Anchor Standards: Anchor standards provide lenses through which the essential skills and disciplinary knowledge of inquiry and action are practiced and applied. Anchor standards remain the same through all grades and courses and align closely with the dimensions of the C3 Framework.

Inquiry Standards: The inquiry standards define key skills within social studies by grade bands (i.e., K-2, 3-3, 6-8, and 9-12). These standards are meant to be used in concert with the content standards throughout the course of study, whenever appropriate. Working both individually and collaboratively, students engage in inquiry about important issues in social studies classes. Students utilize the inquiry process to analyze foundational knowledge, develop questions, apply tools to engage in research, weigh evidence, develop and communicate conclusions, and take informed action.

Content Standards: Content standards define what students should know or be able to do in a specific grade or course. They emphasize the way each discipline provides foundational knowledge and skills essential to inquiry and action. Content standards are grade specific in grades K-5 and course specific in grades 6-12.

Alaska Social Studies Standards: The standards are rigorous and flexible in design to address the diversity of students' experiences. They integrate the Alaska context throughout, ensuring that knowledge, skills, and dispositions progress from Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12). They interweave components of the Alaska Cultural Standards to make sure that social studies learning is relevant, meaningful, and purposeful for all students in Alaska. They were developed by a diverse and experienced group of Alaska educators, Tribal representatives, and other community partners guided by current evidence-based practices in social studies education.

The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3): Framework for Social Studies State Standards was conceptualized by individual state leaders in social studies education and supported by fifteen professional organizations representing four core social studies content areas: civics, economics, geography, and history. The C3 Framework was written by experts in the academic disciplines and social studies education in collaboration with classroom teachers, state social studies education leaders, and representatives of professional organizations.

Archived Courses

The following courses have been removed from the Social Studies Curriculum and archived. If a teacher or school is interested in offering one of these courses in the future, they must fill out a pilot proposal form by the deadline listed on the district website; the course may be offered, with Teaching and Learning and superintendent approval. If the school would like to look at the old curriculum for the course, they should contact Teaching and Learning at teachingandlearning@k12northstar.org or (907)452-2000 ext 11422.

Archived courses:

- World History Honors 1 & 2
- Global Issues
- Current Issues & Events
- Political Economy 1 & 2
- Media in History