

# Social Studies and Geography Survey for Middle and High Schools

The Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic  
Education  
Fall 2015

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TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose

This research continues the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education's inquiry into middle school and high school geography standards and course requirements. Conducted by a fall graduate seminar class at Texas State University every two years, the purpose of this research is to examine the status of geography within social studies standards and course requirements in the United States and the District of Columbia, examining each state separately. The data used to create the maps and tables can be found on the information pages about each state in the last section of the report.

While many states include the teaching and learning of geographic concepts, knowledge, and skills within the K-12 curriculum, the focus of this survey is the presence of geography standards and course requirements from sixth grade through twelfth grade. This research did not aim to identify geography taught at the kindergarten through fifth grade because social studies courses at these grade levels generally encompass a mixture of subject areas. We must also note that the United States K-12 education system is constantly changing, and different priorities impact state standards and graduation requirements in each state, especially for social studies.

The original intent of this collection of social studies standards/strand information was to provide data for longitudinal analysis of trends in social studies/geography emphasis on a state-by-state basis. This has proven to be difficult, as states have changed definitions, course titles, and graduation requirements. We hope that this document proves useful, but we caution researchers to look deeper, when and if changes are apparent, from year to year. You may simply be looking at a varying definition rather than a more fundamental consideration, such as a change in teaching and learning requirements or state or federal legislation dealing with education.

### Geography Course Requirements

The rubric that guided the survey for this research recognized that states exercise five options for administering geography courses in middle school and high school:

- Yes, a **stand-alone** geography course is required
- Yes, a geography/other social studies **combined** course is required
- No, a geography course is **not required**
- **Optional**- World History **or** World Geography required
- **Local school districts** set all course requirements

### Standards and Strands

For the purpose of this report, a "standard" is defined as a set of content knowledge and skills that is designed for a class that focuses solely on geography and geographic thinking. A "strand" is defined as geography content merged with other social studies content for a class that is not exclusively geographic in nature, but in which is strengthened by geographic perspective or skills. Most states have organized their social studies curricula around four or five social studies subjects, which include history, geography, civics, government, and economics. Using these definitions, it was determined that there are three categories for classification regarding how geography content is organized:

- **Standard:** a separate set of geography standards for a stand-alone course
- **Strand:** geography is included as part of the social studies standards or as part of another social studies course (e.g. history, economics, etc.)
- **Both:** geography is represented as a separate set of standards for a stand-alone course and is included as part of the social studies standards or as part of another social studies course (e.g. history, economics, etc.)

## Results

At the middle school level nine states require a stand-alone geography course, and four states offer a combined course. Twenty-six states allow local school districts to set requirements for completion of middle school, and 12 states do not require a geography course for middle school completion. There are no states that allow geography as an option with World History for completion of middle school. At the high school level only four states require a stand-alone geography course for high school graduation; six states offer a combined course; and four states allow students to choose between world history or world geography to meet high school graduation requirements. Twenty-four states allow local school districts to set graduation requirements, and 13 states do not require any type of geography course at the high school level.

At the middle school level, there are 41 states that have geography as a strand within the state social studies standards, three that have separate geography standards, and seven states have both geography strands within the social studies curriculum and separate standards for geography. At the high school level, 33 states have geography as a strand within the state social studies standards, seven have separate standards for geography, and 11 states have both geography strands within the social studies standards and a separate set of geography standards.

This study also aimed to determine state standards revision schedules. It was found that 21 states have no scheduled revision planned for their social studies standards. Six states are currently revising their standards. Six states are expected to start revising their standards in 2016, nine states in 2017-2018, eight states in 2019-2020, and Wyoming plans to revise their standards in 2022 (see “Schedule of Revision of Social Studies Standards, by Year” table, pg. 11).

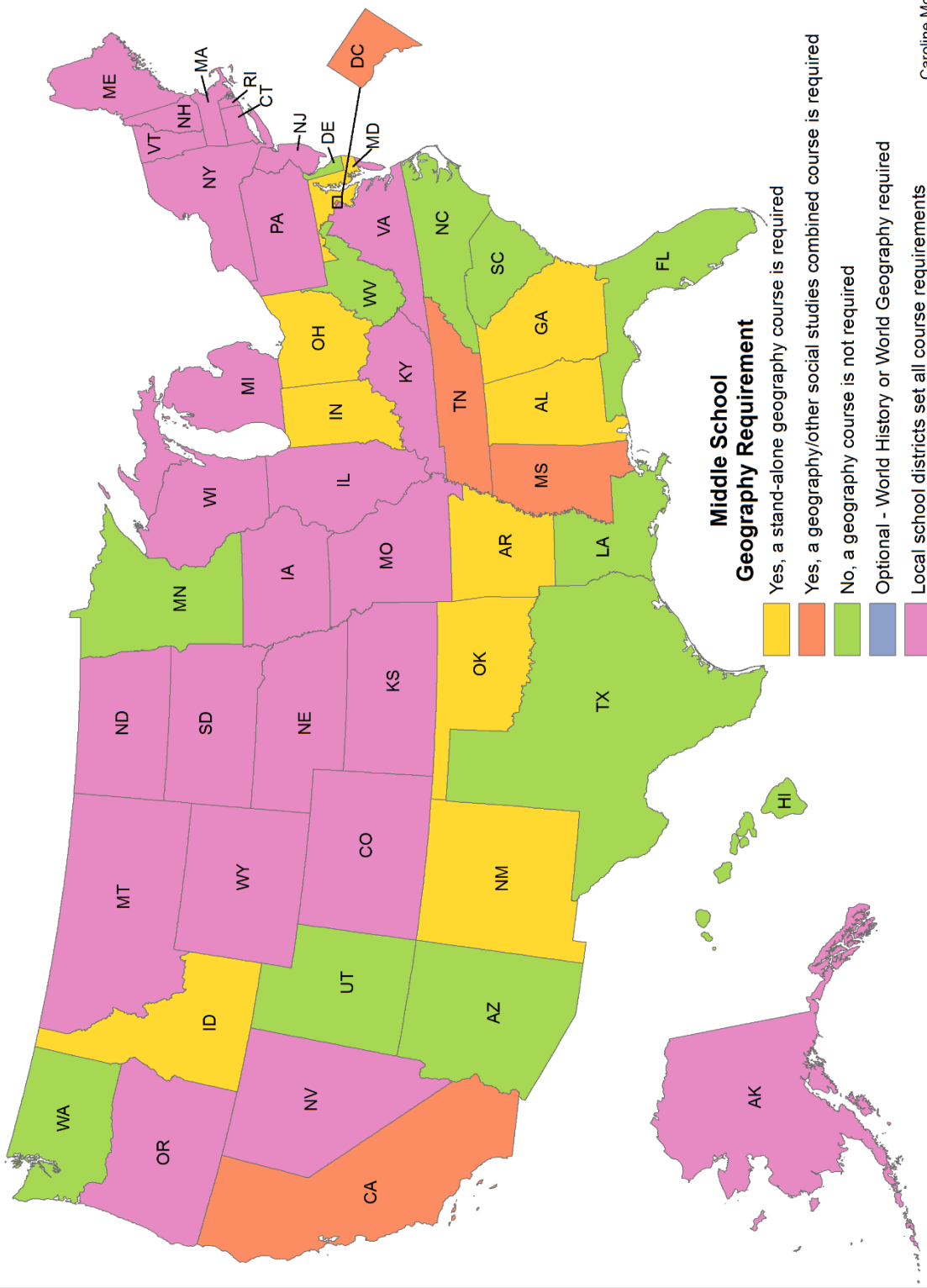
## Conclusions

As mentioned in a previous report, data collection for longitudinal analysis is difficult, as there are many factors that affect educational policies in the United States. Factors that affect results include changes in definitions, personnel conducting research at state departments of education, and political changes in state legislatures. The results from this study report that 14 states are requiring geography for high school graduation and 13 for middle school completion, either as a stand-alone, option, or combined course, and an average of 13 states at both levels do not require geography and 25 states allow local school districts to make graduation and middle school curriculum decisions. Geography is also represented in all individual state standards, but mainly as a strand in social studies documents.

## Acknowledgements

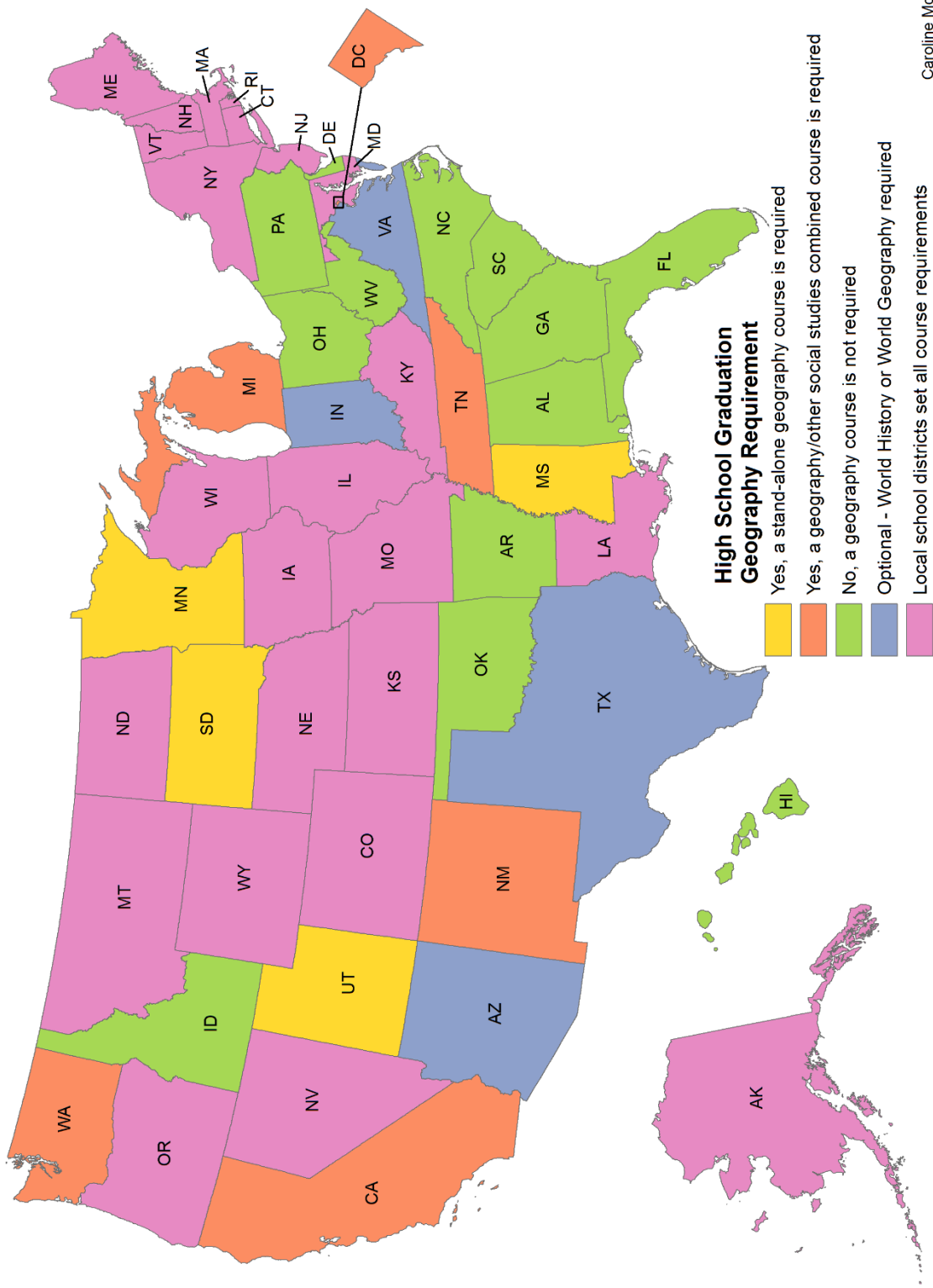
We would like to thank Emily Warren, Jose Alejandro Cascante Campos, and Benjamin Prince for their assistance researching data for the states.

# Middle School Geography Requirement, 2015-2016



Caroline McClure

# High School Geography Requirement, 2015-2016

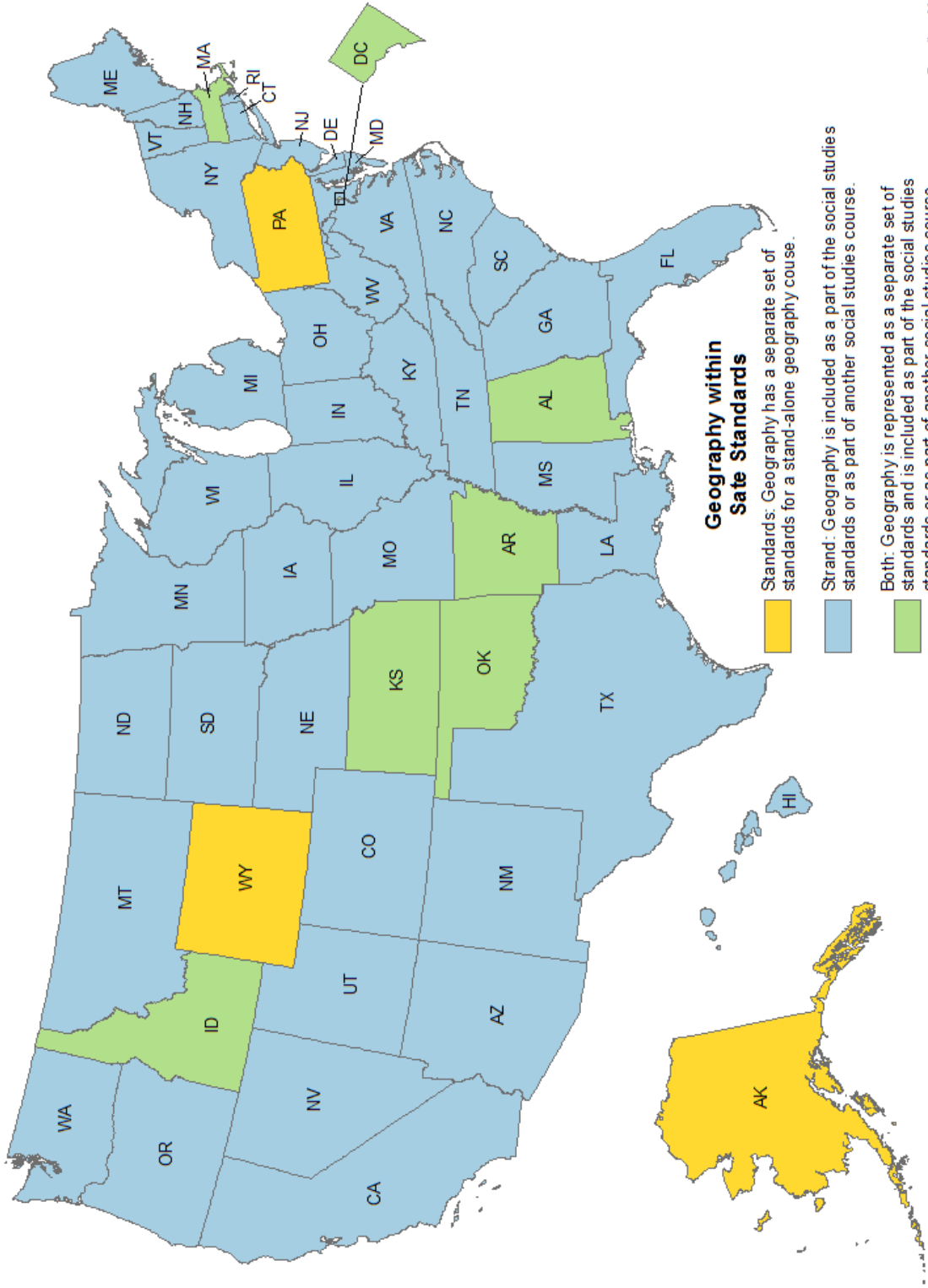


## Middle School and High School Geography Requirement

State	Middle School	High School
Alabama	Yes	No
Alaska	Local	Local
Arizona	No	Option
Arkansas	Yes	No
California	Combined	Combined
Colorado	Local	Local
Connecticut	Local	Local
Delaware	No	No
District of Columbia	Combined	Combined
Florida	No	No
Georgia	Yes	No
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	Yes	No
Illinois	Local	Local
Indiana	Yes	Option
Iowa	Local	Local
Kansas	Local	Local
Kentucky	Local	Local
Louisiana	No	Local
Maine	Local	Local
Maryland	Yes	Local
Massachusetts	Local	Local
Michigan	Local	Combined
Minnesota	No	Yes
Mississippi	Combined	Yes
Missouri	Local	Local

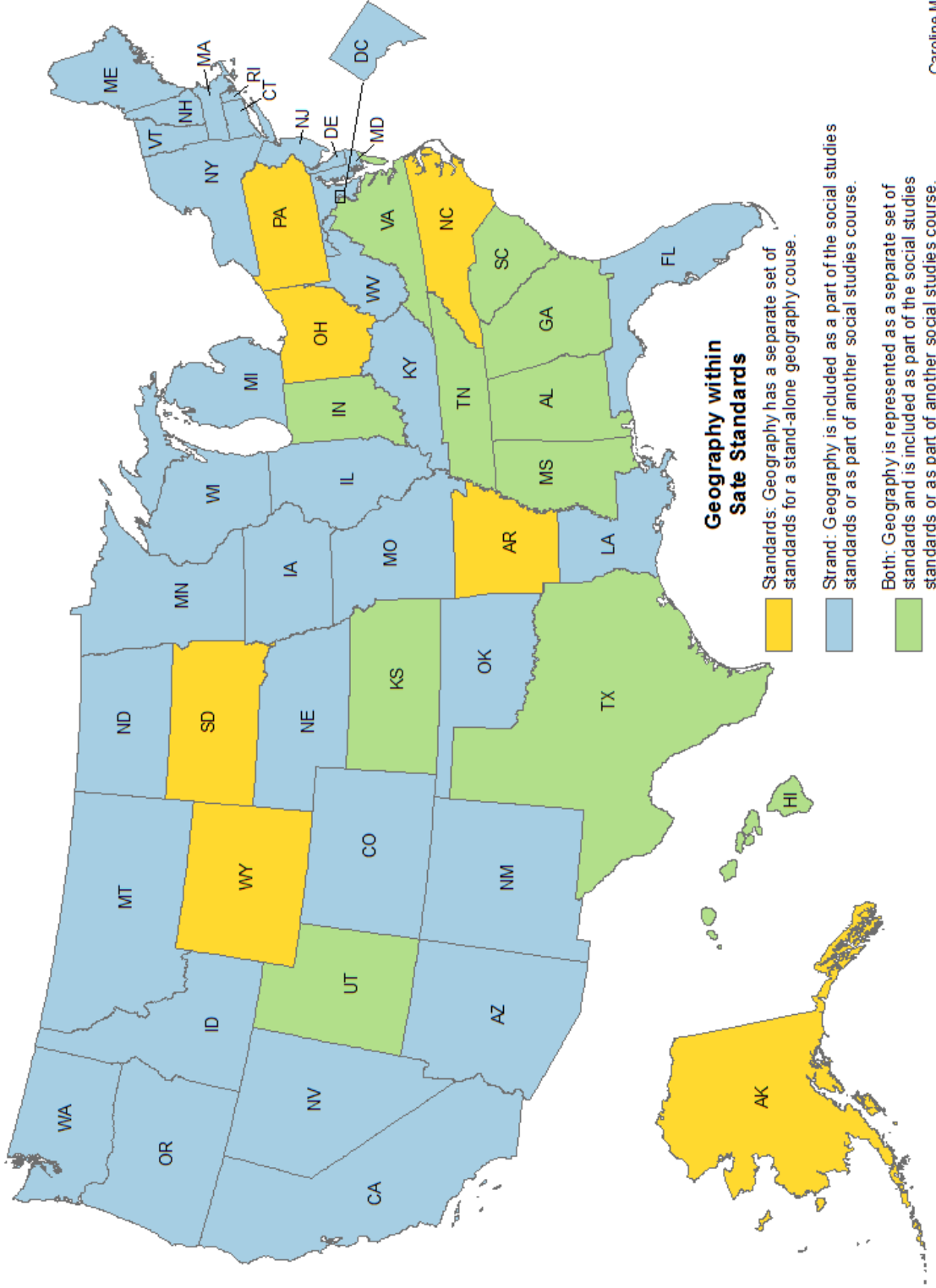
State	Middle School	High School
Montana	Local	Local
Nebraska	Local	Local
Nevada	Local	Local
New Hampshire	Local	Local
New Jersey	Local	Local
New Mexico	Yes	Combined
New York	Local	Local
North Carolina	No	No
North Dakota	Local	Local
Ohio	Yes	No
Oklahoma	Yes	No
Oregon	Local	Local
Pennsylvania	Local	No
Rhode Island	Local	Local
South Carolina	No	No
South Dakota	Local	Yes
Tennessee	Combined	Combined
Texas	No	Option
Utah	No	Yes
Vermont	Local	Local
Virginia	Local	Option
Washington	No	Combined
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin	Local	Local
Wyoming	Local	Local

# Middle School Geography Standards 2015-2016





# High School Geography Standards 2015-2016



### Geography's Place within Social Studies Standards

State	Middle School	High School
Alabama	Both	Both
Alaska	Standards	Standards
Arizona	Strand	Strand
Arkansas	Both	Standards
California	Strand	Strand
Colorado	Strand	Strand
Connecticut	Strand	Strand
Delaware	Strand	Strand
District of Columbia	Both	Strand
Florida	Strand	Strand
Georgia	Strand	Both
Hawaii	Strand	Both
Idaho	Both	Strand
Illinois	Strand	Strand
Indiana	Strand	Both
Iowa	Strand	Strand
Kansas	Both	Both
Kentucky	Strand	Strand
Louisiana	Strand	Strand
Maine	Strand	Strand
Maryland	Strand	Strand
Massachusetts	Both	Strand
Michigan	Strand	Strand
Minnesota	Strand	Strand
Mississippi	Strand	Both
Missouri	Strand	Strand

State	Middle School	High School
Montana	Strand	Strand
Nebraska	Strand	Strand
Nevada	Strand	Strand
New Hampshire	Strand	Strand
New Jersey	Strand	Strand
New Mexico	Strand	Strand
New York	Strand	Strand
North Carolina	Strand	Standards
North Dakota	Strand	Strand
Ohio	Strand	Standards
Oklahoma	Both	Strand
Oregon	Strand	Strand
Pennsylvania	Standards	Standards
Rhode Island	Strand	Strand
South Carolina	Strand	Both
South Dakota	Strand	Standards
Tennessee	Strand	Both
Texas	Strand	Both
Utah	Strand	Both
Vermont	Strand	Strand
Virginia	Strand	Both
Washington	Strand	Strand
West Virginia	Strand	Strand
Wisconsin	Strand	Strand
Wyoming	Standards	Standards

### Standards Revision Schedule, by State

State	Last Revision	Next Revision
Alabama	2013	2016-2017
Alaska	2006	None Scheduled
Arizona	2006	None Scheduled
Arkansas	2014	2020
California	2015	In Progress
Colorado	2009	2018
Connecticut	2015	None Scheduled
Delaware	2015	2020
District of Columbia	2006	None Scheduled
Florida	2008	None Scheduled
Georgia	2012	2016
Hawaii	2007	2017
Idaho	2010	None Scheduled
Illinois	2015	None Scheduled
Indiana	2014	2020
Iowa	2008	In Progress
Kansas	2013	2020
Kentucky	2006	In Progress
Louisiana	2011	None Scheduled
Maine	2007	None Scheduled
Maryland	2006	None Scheduled
Massachusetts	2003	2019
Michigan	2015	None Scheduled
Minnesota	2013	2019-2020
Mississippi	2010	2016-2017
Missouri	2007	2015-2016

State	Last Revision	Next Revision
Montana	2000	2017
Nebraska	2012	2019
Nevada	2008	2016
New Hampshire	2006	2016
New Jersey	2014	2019
New Mexico	2009	None Scheduled
North Carolina	2010	2015-2016
North Dakota	2007	2016-2017
Ohio	2010	None Scheduled
Oklahoma	2012	2018
Oregon	2011	None Scheduled
Pennsylvania	2009	None Scheduled
Rhode Island	2012	None Scheduled
South Carolina	2011	2016
South Dakota	2015	None Scheduled
Tennessee	2013	2018
Texas	2010	2016-2017
Utah	2010	In Progress
Vermont	2000	In Progress
Virginia	2008	2015
Washington	2013	None Scheduled
West Virginia	2012	None Scheduled
Wisconsin	1998	None Scheduled
Wyoming	2014	2022

**Standards Revision Schedule, by Year**

In progress	2016	2017-2018	2019-2020	2022	None Scheduled
California Iowa Kentucky Utah Vermont Virginia	Georgia Missouri Nevada New Hampshire North Carolina South Carolina	Colorado Oklahoma Tennessee Alabama Hawaii Mississippi Montana North Dakota Texas	Arkansas Delaware Indiana Kansas Massachusetts Minnesota Nebraska New Jersey	Wyoming	Alaska Arizona Connecticut D.C. Florida Idaho Illinois Louisiana Maine Maryland Michigan New Mexico New York Ohio Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Washington West Virginia Wisconsin

## Alabama

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: United States Studies: Beginnings to the Industrial Revolution

**Grade 7: Geography** (1 semester)

Grade 7: Civics (1 semester)

Grade 8: World History to 1500

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 4

Grade 9: World History: 1500 to Present (1 credit)

Grade 10: United States History I: Beginnings to the Industrial Revolution (1 credit)

Grade 11: United States History II: The Industrial Revolution to the Present (1 credit)

Grade 12: United States Government (0.5 credit)

Grade 12: Economics (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

"In addition to the courses required for Grades 9-12, local school systems may offer elective social studies courses. These may include, but are not limited to, a study of psychology, sociology, contemporary world issues and civic engagement, and [AP] **human geography** (p. 56)."

- 2010 Alabama Course of Study

<http://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/COS/2010%20Alabama%20Social%20Studies%20Course%20of%20Study.pdf>

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create Grade 7 World Geography standards.

Grade 9-12 standards are aligned with standards addressed by national social studies organizations.

### Standards Documents

2010 Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies

<http://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/Pages/cos-all.aspx>

Adopted: May 2010

Last revision: 2013

Next revision: 2016-2017

<http://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/COS/2010%20Alabama%20Social%20Studies%20Course%20of%20Study.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 7 Geography

Grades 9-12 Human Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6 U.S. Studies

Grade 8 World History to 1500

All Grade 9-12 History Courses

Grade 9-12 Government

Grade 9-12 Contemporary World Issues and Civic Engagement

### Information Source

Nettie Carson-Mullins

Social Studies Contact

Alabama State Department of Education

[ncarson-mullins@alsde.edu](mailto:ncarson-mullins@alsde.edu)

(334) 242-9700

Alabama State Department of Education website:

<http://www.alsde.edu/Pages/home.aspx>

## Alaska\*

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state: Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Alaska Department of Education minimum of 3 social studies credits, which must include:  
Alaska History (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state: Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

\*2013 data used, as researchers were unable to verify 2015 data.

### Standards Documents

Alaska Standards: Fourth Edition

Last revision: 2006

Next revision: None scheduled

<https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/standards.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in grades 6-12.

### Information Source

Alaska Department of Education website:

<https://education.alaska.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Arizona

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: Social Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total Credits (minimum): 3  
American History, including Arizona History (1 credit)  
World History or World Geography (1 credit)  
American Government, including Arizona Government (0.5 credit)  
Economics (0.5 credit)  
\* Districts and charter schools may also establish additional graduation requirements.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses, besides those required by the state or local graduation requirements, are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Arizona Social Studies Standard

Last revision: 2006

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/academic-standards/social-studies-standard/>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Tammy Waller  
Director of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages  
Arizona Department of Education  
[Tammy.waller@azed.gov](mailto:Tammy.waller@azed.gov)  
(602) 364-1981

Arizona Department of Education website:  
<http://www.azed.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Arkansas

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies: World History—Beginnings of Human Civilization to 1500 C.E.

**Grade 7: Social Studies: Geography**

Grade 8: Social Studies: United States History 1800s to 1900

\*All social studies classes have civics, economics, geography, and history embedded.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3

Civics (0.5 credit)

Economics (0.5 credit)

United States History since 1890 (1 credit)

World History since 1450 (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography

### Notes

The *College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards* and the *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* were examined by the revision committee and influenced the development of the Grade 7: Social Studies: Geography and Grade 9-12 Geography curriculum frameworks.

### Standards Documents

Arkansas Social Studies Standards:

Last revision: 2014

Next revision: 2020

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/social-studies-new-courses-valid-july-1-2015>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 7: Social Studies: Geography

Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 6: Social Studies: World History

Geography is embedded within:

Grade 8: Social Studies: United States

History as are civics/government and economics

### Information Source

Maggie Herrick

Social Studies Specialist

Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Learning Services

[margaret.herrick@arkansas.gov](mailto:margaret.herrick@arkansas.gov)

(501) 682-6584

Arkansas Department of Education website:

<http://www.arkansased.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.



## California

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6: World History and Geography: Ancient Civilizations**  
**Grade 7: World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times**  
**Grade 8: United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict**

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 4  
 Grade 9: Electives courses in history-social science  
**Grade 10: World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World**  
**Grade 11: United States History and Geography: Continuity and Change in the Twentieth Century**  
 Grade 12: Principles of American Democracy (1 semester) and Economics (1 semester)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: Physical Geography  
 Grade 9-12: World Regional Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve  
 Last Revision: 2005  
 Next revision: In progress

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

California Department of Education website:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Colorado

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

"There are no required social studies courses for grades 6-8; however, we do have the Colorado Academic Standards for each of those grade levels. The focus of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards is western hemisphere world history (early civ. through approx. colonialism). 7<sup>th</sup> grade is eastern hemisphere world history (up to approx. the Renaissance) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is U.S. history (approx. American Rev. through the Civil War/Reconstruction)."

- email correspondence with Stephanie Hartman

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

"Local school boards establish high school graduation requirements that meet or exceed the Colorado Graduation Guidelines for the graduating class of 2021. Local school boards and districts select from this menu to create a list of options their students must use to show what they know or can do in order to graduate from high school, beginning with the graduating class of 2021. School districts may offer some or all of the state menu options, may raise a score on an included assessment and may add graduation requirements in other content areas" but must include civics.

- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/grad-menu>

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses, besides those required by the state or local graduation requirements, are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

The social studies standards were created using the *Singapore National Curriculum* and the *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework* as reference materials

### Standards Documents

Colorado Academic Standards

Last revision: Dec. 2009

Next revision: 2018

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies/cas-socialstudies-p12-pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies standards as a strand. There are schools that offer geography as a stand-alone course.

### Information Source

Stephanie Hartman  
Social Studies Content Specialist  
Colorado Department of Education  
[hartman\\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hartman_s@cde.state.co.us)  
(303) 866-6577

Colorado Department of Education website:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Connecticut

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district, but focus on:

Grade 6: World Regional Studies  
Grade 7: World Regional Studies  
Grade 8: United States History

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Connecticut State Department of Education minimum of 2.5 social studies credits, which must include:

Civics and American Government (0.5 credit)  
United States History (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses, besides those required by the state or local graduation requirements, are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

The *College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards* was used to create the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework.

### Standards Documents

Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework

Adopted: February 2015

Next revision: None scheduled (expected revision in 2020)

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/board/ssframeworks.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Stephen Armstrong  
Social Studies Standards Implementation  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
[Stephen.armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.armstrong@ct.gov)  
(860) 713-6706

Connecticut State Department of Education website:  
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Delaware

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: United States History

### Standards Documents

Delaware Standards and Instruction: Social Studies  
Adopted: 1995  
Standards documents are reviewed every five years, but no changes have been made since adoption in 1995.  
Next revision: 2020 (expected)

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/392>

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Recommended social studies sequence:  
Grade 9: Civics (1 semester) and Geography (1 semester)  
Grade 10: Economics and Personal Finance  
Grade 11: United States History (only mandated course)  
Grade 12: World History  
-email correspondence with Preston Shockley

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Other Geography Courses

### Information Source

Preston Shockley  
Education Associate, Social Studies  
Delaware Department of Education  
[Preston.shockley@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Preston.shockley@doe.k12.de.us)  
(302) 735-4180 ext. 4191

Delaware Department of Education website:  
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>

### Notes

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## District of Columbia

Middle School Social Studies Requirements	Standards Documents
<p><b>Grade 6: World Geography and Cultures</b>  <b>Grade 7: World History and Geography: Ancient World</b>  <b>Grade 8: United States History and Geography I: Growth and Conflict</b></p>	<p>District of Columbia Social Studies Pre-K through Grade 12 Standards  Last revision: 2006  Next revision: None scheduled</p> <p><a href="http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/DCPS-horiz-soc_studies.pdf">http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/DCPS-horiz-soc_studies.pdf</a></p>
High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements	Geography: Standards and/or Strands
<p>Total credits: 4  <b>Grade 9: World History and Geography I: Middle Ages to the Age of Revolutions</b>  <b>Grade 10: World History and Geography II: The Industrial Revolution to the Modern Era</b>  <b>Grade 11: United States History and Geography II: Industrial America to the Present</b>  Grade 12: D.C. History and Government</p>	<p>Geography has a separate set of standards in:  Grade 6: World Geography and Cultures</p> <p>Geography is a strand in:  Grade 7: World History and Geography  Grade 8: United States History and Geography I  Grade 9: World History and Geography I  Grade 10: World History and Geography II  Grade 11: United States History and Geography II</p>
Other Geography Courses	Information Source
<p>Grade 9-12: World Geography  Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography</p>	<p>Scott Abbott  Director, Social Studies  District of Columbia Public Schools  <a href="mailto:scott.abbott@dc.gov">scott.abbott@dc.gov</a>  (704) 650-5636</p> <p>District of Columbia Public Schools website:  <a href="http://dcps.dc.gov/">http://dcps.dc.gov/</a></p>
Notes	

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Florida

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: Social Studies

\*One course must be at least a one-semester civics education course.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
United States History (1 credit)  
World History (1 credit)  
Economics and Financial Literacy (0.5 credit)  
United States Government (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Cultural Geography  
Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography  
Grade 9-12: AICE Geography 1 and 2 AS Level  
Grade 9-12: Pre-AICE Geography IGCSE Level  
Grade 9-12: IB Geography 1 and 2  
Grade 9-12: IB World Geography  
Grade 9-12: IB Mid-Years Program World Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards K-12  
Last revision: 2008  
Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Ashley Palelis  
Social Studies Content Specialist  
Florida Department of Education  
[Ashley.Palelis@fldoe.org](mailto:Ashley.Palelis@fldoe.org)  
(850) 245-9323

Florida Department of Education website:  
<http://www.fldoe.org/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Georgia

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6: World Studies: Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, Europe and Australia**  
**Grade 7: World Studies: Africa, Southwest Asia (Middle East), Southern and Eastern Asia**  
 Grade 8: Georgia Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
 United States History (1 credit)  
 World History (1 credit)  
 American Government/Civics (0.5 credit)  
 Economics (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography  
 Grade 9-12: Asian Studies  
 Grade 9-12: Latin American Studies  
 Grade 9-12: Middle Eastern Studies  
 Grade 9-12: Sub-Saharan Studies  
 Grade 9-12: Local Area Studies/Geography  
 Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography  
 Grade 9-12: IB Geography, Year 1 and Year 2  
 Grade 9-12: Fundamentals of Geospatial Technology  
 Grade 9-12: Applications of Geospatial Technology

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Georgia Performance Standards

Last revision: 2012

Next revision: 2016

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Pages/BrowseStandards/SocialStudiesStandards.aspx>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well in:

Grade 9-12: United States History

Grade 9-12: World History

### Information Source

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 Georgia Department of Education  
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 (404) 656-2093

Georgia Department of Education website:  
<http://www.gadoe.org>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Hawaii

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: Social Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 4  
Modern History of Hawaii (0.5 credit)  
Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit)  
United States History and Government (1 credit)  
World History and Culture (1 credit)  
Social Studies elective (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses \*

Grade 9-12: Geography  
Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography

### Notes

\*2013 data used, as researchers were unable to verify 2015 data.

### Standards Documents

Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III  
Adopted: August 2007  
Next revision: 2017

<http://165.248.72.55/hcpsv3/>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
Grade 9-12: Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum.

### Information Source

Hawaii State Department of Education website:  
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.



## Idaho

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6-9: Geography: Eastern Hemisphere**  
**Grade 6-9: Geography: Western Hemisphere**  
 Grade 6-9: World History and Civilization  
 Grade 6-12: U.S. History

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 5  
 United States History I and II  
 American Government  
 Economics

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Idaho Social Studies Content Standards  
 Adopted: 2010  
 Next revision: None scheduled

[https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/content\\_standards/ss\\_standards.htm](https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/content_standards/ss_standards.htm)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
 Grade 6-9: Geography: Eastern Hemisphere  
 Grade 6-9: Geography: Western Hemisphere  
 Geography is a strand in:  
 Grade 6-9: World History and Civilization  
 Grade 6-12: U.S. History I  
 Grade 9-12: U.S. History II  
 Grade 9-12: American Government  
 Grade 9-12: Economics

### Information Source

Idaho State Department of Education website:  
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Illinois

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Illinois State Board of Education minimum of 2 years of social studies credits, which must include History of the United States (1 year) OR a combination of History of the United States and American Government (1 year); 1 semester must be civics.

### Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science  
Adopted: 2015, in public comment period  
Next revision: None Scheduled

[http://www.isbe.net/ils/social\\_science/standards.htm](http://www.isbe.net/ils/social_science/standards.htm)

The *Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science* were developed using the 1985 Illinois State Goals for Social Science, the *National Standards for World History*, the *National Standards for United States History*, *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards*, the *National Standards for Civics and Government*, other various state and national work, and local standards contributed by team members.

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Cara Wiley  
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College and Career Readiness  
Illinois State Board of Education  
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(217) 524-4832

Illinois State Board of Education website:  
<http://www.isbe.net/default.htm>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Indiana

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6: People, Places, and Cultures in Europe and the Americas**

**Grade 7: People, Places, and Cultures in Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific**

Grade 8: United States History—Growth and Development (to 1877)

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

There are four ways to gain high school graduation credit. For a general diploma, 4 social studies credits are required:

U.S. Government (1 credit)

U.S. History (2 credits)

Social Studies Elective (1 credit)

For Core 40, Core 40 with academic honors, or Core 40 with technical honors, 6 social studies credits are required:

U.S. History (2 credits)

U.S. Government (1 credit)

Economics (1 credit)

World History and Civilization (2 credits) or Geography and History of the World (2 credits)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Indiana Academic Standards

Adopted: March 2014

Next revision: 2020

<http://www.doe.in.gov/standards/social-studies>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 9-12: Geography and History of the World

Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well in:

Grade 9-12 U.S. History (1877-present)

Grade 9-12: U.S. Government

Grade 9-12: World History & Civilizations

### Information Source

Bruce Blomberg

Social Studies Specialist

Indiana Department of Education

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(317) 232-9078

Indiana Department of Education website:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Iowa

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Iowa Department of Education minimum 3 social studies credits. 1.5 credits determined by local school districts, and others include:

- American History (1 credit)
- United States Government (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

The *Iowa Core K-12 Social Studies* standards were created using *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction *Content Standard Social Studies, Standard A: Geography*.

### Standards Documents

Iowa Core K-12 Social Studies

Last revision: 2008

Next revision: In progress

[https://iowacore.gov/sites/default/files/k-12\\_socialstudies\\_0.pdf](https://iowacore.gov/sites/default/files/k-12_socialstudies_0.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Stefanie Rosenberg Wager  
Social Studies Consultant  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Consultant-Civic and Financial Literacy  
World Languages Consultant  
Iowa Department of Education  
[stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov)  
(515) 725-7842

Iowa Department of Education website:  
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Kansas

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district, but the suggested scope and sequence is:

Grade 6: Ancient World History

Grade 7: Geography (1 semester) and

Kansas History\* (1 semester)

Grade 8: U.S. History: Constitutional Age to

International Expansion

\*The only course that is required of districts and is not part of the graduation requirement is a 9 week course on Kansas History in grade 7 or beyond.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- 3 credits of social studies are required and must include:

U.S. History (1 credit)

American Government (0.5 credit)

The Kansas Department of Education does not prescribe course content.

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies

Adopted: 2013

Next revision: 2020

[http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/CSAS/Content%20Area%20\(F-L\)/History,%20Government,%20and%20Social%20Studies/2013%20Kansas%20History%20Government%20Social%20Studies%20Standards.pdf](http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/CSAS/Content%20Area%20(F-L)/History,%20Government,%20and%20Social%20Studies/2013%20Kansas%20History%20Government%20Social%20Studies%20Standards.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 7: Geography

Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the other 6-12 social studies courses as a strand.

### Information Source

Don Gifford

Kansas State Department of Education

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(785) 296-3892

Kansas State Department of Education website:

<http://www.ksde.org/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Kentucky

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but include 3 credits of social studies and meet Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies at each grade level.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

The *College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards*, the *Global Competency Matrix*, and the *Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills* were used to create the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

### Standards Documents

Kentucky Core Academic Standards

Adopted: June 2006

Next revision: In process

[http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Documents/Kentucky%20Academic%20Standards\\_Final-9%2011%2015.pdf](http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Documents/Kentucky%20Academic%20Standards_Final-9%2011%2015.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Jennifer Fraker  
Social Studies Consultant  
Kentucky Department of Education  
[jennifer.fraker@education.ky.gov](mailto:jennifer.fraker@education.ky.gov)  
(502) 564-2106 ext. 4106

Kentucky Department of Education website:  
<http://education.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Louisiana

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: Social Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

For Louisiana students, credit for Civics and United States History is a requirement for graduation. All other courses are student-selected from a list of course offerings.

Diploma types and social studies requirements for students entering ninth grade prior to 2014-2015:  
LA Core 4 (4 credits)  
Basic Core (3 credits)  
Career Diploma (3 credits)

Diploma types and social studies requirements for students entering ninth grade in 2014-2015 and beyond:  
TOPS University Diploma (4 credits)  
Jump Start TOPS Tech Diploma (2 credits)

### Other Geography Courses

World Geography (Typically offered in Grade 9)  
AP Human Geography (Typically offered as a substitute for World Geography)

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Louisiana 2011 Social Studies Grade-Level Expectations  
Adopted: 2011  
Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/standards---k-12-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=15>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Whitney Whealdon  
Director, Office of Academic Content  
Louisiana Department of Education  
[Whitney.whealdon@la.gov](mailto:Whitney.whealdon@la.gov)

Louisiana Department of Education website:  
<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Maine

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Maine Department of Education graduation requirements, which includes social studies and history, including American history, government, civics and personal finance (2 years, in separate or integrated study programs) and Maine Studies (including Maine Native American studies).

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Maine Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction

Adoption/last revision: 2007

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.maine.gov/doe/socialstudies/documents/ss102207.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies standards as a strand.

### Information Source

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Western Maine Regional Representative  
Maine Department of Education  
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(207) 624-6828

Maine Department of Education website:  
<http://www.maine.gov/doe/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.



## Maryland

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: World History

**Grade 7: Modern World Cultural Geography**

Grade 8: U.S. History

### Standards Documents

Maryland Teaching and Learning: Social Studies

Last revision: 2006

Next revision: None Scheduled

[http://mdk12.msde.maryland.gov/instruction/curriculum/social\\_studies/vsc\\_toolkit.html](http://mdk12.msde.maryland.gov/instruction/curriculum/social_studies/vsc_toolkit.html)

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirements, and ranges from 3-4 credits. Students must take the following and are assessed in Government:

World History (1 credit)

U.S. History (1 credit)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: Contemporary World Studies

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography

### Information Source

Bruce A. Lesh

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Maryland State Department of Education

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Maryland State Department of Education website:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/>

### Notes

The *College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards* was used as a model for the new 6.0 Skills and Processes document that is linked to all state curricular standards.

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Massachusetts

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district, but the state recommends that courses focus on the following:

Grade 6: World Geography

Grade 7: Ancient and Classical Civilizations in the Mediterranean to the Fall of the Roman Empire: Ideas that Shaped History

Grade 8: World History I, 500-1800, World History I 500-1500, or United States History I 1763-1877\*

\*Part of e 8-12 Pathways:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/final.pdf>

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirement of a minimum of 3 social studies credits and be chosen from the list of social studies course sequences:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/final.pdf>

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- geography course offerings are determined by each school district and the curriculum must meet all the standards set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework

Last revision: August 2003

Expected next revision: 2019

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/final.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
Grade 6: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 7-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well as the high school social studies curriculum.

### Information Source

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Michigan

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district, but the state recommends:

**Grade 6: World Geography\***

**Grade 7: World History and Geography\***

Grade 8: Integrated United States History

\*Proposed changes for the 2015 revisions that will be adopted in early 2016

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Michigan Department of Education requirement of a minimum of 3 social studies credits:

**United States History and Geography (1 credit)**

**World History and Geography (1 credit)**

Civics (0.5 credit)

Economics (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- geography course offerings are determined by each school district and the curriculum must meet all the standards set by the Michigan Department of Education.

### Notes

The *College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards* was used to create the Michigan Content Expectations.

### Standards Documents

Michigan Content Expectations

Written: 2007

Last revision: 2015

Next revision: None scheduled

Middle school:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSGLCE\\_218368\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSGLCE_218368_7.pdf)

High school:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SS\\_HS\\_CE\\_210739\\_7\\_470248\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SS_HS_CE_210739_7_470248_7.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Jim Cameron

Social Studies Consultant

Michigan Department of Education

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(517) 241-4285

Michigan Department of Education website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Minnesota

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Minnesota Studies  
 Grade 7: United States Studies (1800 to present)  
 Grade 8: Global Studies (Geography is lead discipline)

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3.5  
 United States History (1 credit)  
**Geography (0.5 credit)**  
 Government and Citizenship (0.5 credit)  
 World History (1 credit)  
 Economics (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

2011 Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Social Studies  
 Adopted: May 2013  
 Next revision: 2019-2020

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/Rule/ActiveRule/SocStudies/index.html>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

The 9-12 Geography standards and benchmarks may be included in a Geography course or delivered in an integrated format.

### Information Source

Beth Aune, Ph.D.  
 Academic Standards & Instructional Effectiveness,  
 Director  
 Minnesota Department of Education  
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 (651) 582-8795

Minnesota Department of Education website:  
<http://education.state.mn.us/mde/index.html>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Mississippi

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: **World Geography and Citizenship**  
 Grade 7: World History from Pre-Historic Era to the Age of Enlightenment  
 Grade 8: United States History from Exploration through Reconstruction

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 4\*  
 United States History (1 credit)  
 World History (1 credit)  
**Geography (0.5 credit)**  
 Economics (0.5 credit)  
 United States Government (0.5 credit)  
 Mississippi Studies (0.5 credit)

\*This is part of the Tradition Pathway option:

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/dropout-prevention-and-compulsory-school-attendance-library/mississippi-high-school-nbsp-graduation-pathway.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography  
 Grade 9-12: Advanced World Geography

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

2011 Mississippi Social Studies Framework  
 Approved: November 2010  
 Next revision: 2016-2017

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/curriculum-and-instructions-library/2011-mississippi-social-studies-framework.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
 Grade 9-12: Geography  
 Grade 9-12: Advanced World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well as:

Grade 9-12: Mississippi Studies  
 Grade 9-12: U.S. Government  
 Grade 9-12: World History  
 Grade 9-12: U.S. History  
 Grade 9-12: Local Resource Studies  
 Grade 9-12: Humanities  
 Grade 7-12: Local Cultures

### Information Source

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 Executive Director, Secondary Education  
 Mississippi Department of Education  
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 (601) 359-3461

Mississippi Department of Education website:  
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/mde-home>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Missouri

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education minimum of 3 social studies credits.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Missouri Social Studies Grade Level Expectations

Last revision: 2007

Next revision: 2015-2016

K-8 Social Studies Grade Level Expectations:

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/gle-social-studies.pdf>

High School Social Studies Grade Level Expectations:

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/cle-social-studies.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Dixie Johnson Grupe

Director, Social Studies

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website:

<https://dese.mo.gov>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Montana

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the Board of Public Education minimum of 2 social studies credits.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Name of Standards Document

Last revision: 2000

Next revision: 2017

<http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Standards/ContStds-SocSt.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies standards as a strand.

### Information Source

Colet Bartow  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
[cbartow@mt.gov](mailto:cbartow@mt.gov)  
(406) 444-3583

Montana Office of Public Instruction website:  
<http://opi.mt.gov/Index.html>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Nebraska

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district which must incorporate the Nebraska Social Studies Standards.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the Nebraska Department of Education minimum of 30 social studies hours (3 years), which must incorporate the Nebraska Social Studies Standards.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district which must incorporate the Nebraska Social Studies Standards.

### Notes

The state standards were written by a committee of K-16 educators. They used information from *Geography for Life*, National Council for the Social Studies standards document, and information from other state standards and crafted much of the language to fit Nebraska.

### Standards Documents

Nebraska Social Studies Standards

Last revision: 2012

Next revision: 2019

[http://www.education.ne.gov/SS/Documents/2012December7VerticalNE\\_SocialStudiesStandardsApproved.pdf](http://www.education.ne.gov/SS/Documents/2012December7VerticalNE_SocialStudiesStandardsApproved.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Harris Payne  
Social Studies Director  
Nebraska Department of Education  
[harris.payne@nebraska.gov](mailto:harris.payne@nebraska.gov)  
(402) 471-2449

Nebraska Department of Education website:  
<http://www.education.ne.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.



## Nevada

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the Nevada Department of Education minimum 2 social studies credits.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

Nevada Social Studies Standards

Last revision: 2008

Next revision: 2016

[http://www.doe.nv.gov/Standards\\_Instructional\\_Support/Nevada\\_Academic\\_Standards/SocialStudies/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Standards_Instructional_Support/Nevada_Academic_Standards/SocialStudies/)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Dave Brancamp  
Office of Standards and Instructional Support  
State of Nevada Department of Education  
[dbrancamp@doe.nv.gov](mailto:dbrancamp@doe.nv.gov)  
(775) 687-9180

State of Nevada Department of Education website:  
<http://www.doe.nv.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## New Hampshire

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the New Hampshire Department of Education minimum 2.5 social studies credits and include:

World History, Global Studies or Geography (0.5 credit)  
Economics (0.5)  
United States and New Hampshire Government/Civics (0.5 credit)  
United States and New Hampshire History (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

\*2013 data used, as researchers were unable to verify 2015 data.

### Standards Documents

K-12 Social Studies New Hampshire Curriculum Framework

Adopted: 2006

Next revision: 2016\*

[http://education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/social\\_studies/documents/frameworks.pdf](http://education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/social_studies/documents/frameworks.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

New Hampshire Department of Education website:  
<http://education.nh.gov/>  
(603) 271-3846

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## New Jersey

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the State of New Jersey Department of Education minimum 15 credits and must include histories and integrated civics, economics, geography, and global content.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards

Last revision: 2014

Next revision: 2019

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2014/ss/standards.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Beverly Plein  
Social Studies Content Coordinator  
State of New Jersey Department of Education  
[beverly.plein@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:beverly.plein@doe.state.nj.us)  
(877) 900-6960

State of New Jersey Department of Education  
website:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## New Mexico

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6: Geography**

**Grade 7: New Mexico History and Geography**

Grade 8: United States History

### Standards Documents

New Mexico Social Studies Standards

Adopted\*: 2009

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/standards/>

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3.5

**United States History and Geography (1 credit)**

**World History and Geography (1 credit)**

Government and Economics (1 credit)

New Mexico History (0.5 credit)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 6-12: Topics in Geography

Grade 11-12: AP Human Geography

Grade 9-12: Humanities

Grade 9-12: Humanities I

Grade 9-12: Humanities II

Grade 9-12: IB Geography

### Information Source

Vanessa Barela

IDEAL-NM/Virtual Schools Bureau – Academic Services Director

New Mexico Public Education Department

[Vanessa.Barela@state.nm.us](mailto:Vanessa.Barela@state.nm.us)

(505) 827-6643

New Mexico Public Education Department website:

<http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/index.html>

### Notes

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## New York

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

The courses are aligned to the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework. See:  
<https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-framework>

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- but must meet the NYS Department of Education minimum of 4 social studies credits and include:  
 United States History (1 credit); Participation in Government (0.5 credit); Economics (0.5 credit).  
 Beginning with Fall 2016 enter high school students, the remaining 2 credits must be Global History and Geography; Students must pass at least one social studies Regents Exam

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

New York Social Studies Standards

Last revision: 1996

Next revision: None Scheduled

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/socst/socstand/home.html>

Courses must align to the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework, specifically the Social Studies Practices

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

The Social Studies Practices, articulated for each grade K-8 and for Grades 9-12, include Geographic Reasoning.

### Information Source

Patricia Polan  
 New York State Education Department  
[Patricia.Polan@nysed.gov](mailto:Patricia.Polan@nysed.gov)

New York State Education Department website:  
<http://www.nysed.gov/>  
 EngageNY  
<https://www.engageny.org/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## North Carolina

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
 Grade 7: Social Studies  
 Grade 8: Social Studies- North Carolina and the United States: Creation and Development of the State and Nation

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Minimum credits: 4  
 Civics and Economics (1 credit)  
 World History (1 credit)  
 American History I and American History II (or AP U.S. History) (1 credit)  
 Social Studies elective (1 credit)

American History I: Founding Principles and American History II **OR** AP US History\*\*, additional social studies course\*\*

\*\*A student who takes AP US History instead of taking US History I and II must also take an additional social studies course in order to meet the other four credits requirement

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Geography

### Notes

The North Carolina 2010 Social Studies Essential Standards were created using the *C3 Framework*, L. Erickson's conceptual curriculum, and RBT.

### Standards Documents

North Carolina 2010 Social Studies Essential Standards

Last revision: 2010

Next revision: 2015-2016

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/acre/standards/new-standards/#social>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
 Grade 9-12: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website:

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## North Dakota

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction minimum 3 social studies credits and include:  
 United States History (1 credit)  
 United States Government (0.5 credit) and  
 Economics (0.5 credit) (or Problems and Democracy (1 credit)  
 Social Studies Elective (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses are determined by individual school districts, but can include:  
 Geography and Multi-cultural Studies

### Notes

The North Dakota Content and Achievement Standards are based on its predecessor, the *2000 North Dakota Social Studies Content Standards*.

### Standards Documents

North Dakota Content and Achievement Standards: Social Studies

Last revision: 2007

Next revision: 2016-2017

[https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/87/Soc\\_studies.pdf](https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/87/Soc_studies.pdf)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Robert G. Bauer  
 Standards and Achievement, Assistant Director  
 Primary/Secondary Education Programs  
 North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
[rgbauer@nd.gov](mailto:rgbauer@nd.gov)  
 (701) 328-2224

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction website:  
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Ohio

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

#### **Grade 6: Social Studies: Regions and People of the Eastern Hemisphere**

Grade 7: Social Studies: World Studies from 750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.: Ancient Greece to the First Global Age

Grade 8: U.S. Studies from 1492-1877: Exploration through Reconstruction

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3

American History (0.5 credit)

American Government (0.5 credit)

Social Studies elective (2 credits), of which 0.5 credit must be in World History and Civilizations.

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

Ohio's New Learning Standards: Social Studies

Last revision: June 2010

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohios-Learning-Standards/Social-Studies>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Ohio Department of Education website:

<http://education.ohio.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.



## Oklahoma

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6: World Geography, Western Hemisphere**  
**Grade 7: World Geography, Eastern Hemisphere**  
 Grade 8: United States History: Creating the United States: The Foundation, Formation, and Transformation of the American Nation, 1754-1877

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
 United States History (1 credit)  
 United States Government (0.5 credit)  
 Oklahoma History (0.5 credit)  
 Social Studies elective (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Human Geography

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was consulted in the creation of the Oklahoma Academic Standards.

### Standards Documents

Oklahoma Academic Standards

Adopted: 2012

Next revision: 2018

<http://ok.gov/sde/documents/2014-09-10/ss-standards-grade>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:

Grade 6: World Geography

Grade 7: World Geography

Geography is a strand in:

Grade 8: United States History

Grade 9-12: Oklahoma History

### Information Source

Brenda Beymer-Chapman

Director, Social Studies Education and Personal Financial Literacy

Oklahoma State Department of Education

[brenda.chapman@sde.ok.gov](mailto:brenda.chapman@sde.ok.gov)

(405) 522-3523

Oklahoma State Department of Education website:

<http://www.ok.gov/sde/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Oregon

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local districts are required by state statute to provide instruction aligned to the Oregon Academic Content Standards which include grade-level Geography standards.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local districts are required by state statute to provide instruction aligned to the Oregon Academic Content Standards which include grade-level Geography standards and meet a minimum 3 social studies credits.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards  
Last revision: 2011

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/subjects/socialscience/standards/oregon-social-sciences-academic-content-standards.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Andrea Morgan  
Education Specialist, Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation  
Oregon Department of Education  
[andrea.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:andrea.morgan@state.or.us)  
(503) 947-5772

Oregon Department of Education website:  
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/home/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Pennsylvania

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
History and Government of the United States and Pennsylvania (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Social Studies Academic Standards  
The Academic Standards of 2009 are awaiting action by State Board of Education.  
Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Curriculum/Pages/Social-Studies.aspx#.VjJNJberTcs>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is a separate Academic Standards Content area and can be addressed as determined by the locally elected school board.

### Information Source

Sarah Flaherty  
Elementary and Secondary Education,  
Teaching and Learning  
[salaherty@pa.gov](mailto:salaherty@pa.gov)  
(717) 783-1832

Pennsylvania Department of Education website:  
<http://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx#.VjJPErErTcs>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Rhode Island

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet the Rhode Island Social Studies Grade Span Expectations.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district.

### Notes

The *National Standards for Civics & Government*, the *NCSS Framework*, and the *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* were all referenced in the creation of the social studies standards and the later expansion.

### Standards Documents

Rhode Island Social Studies Grade Span Expectations (GSEs)

Approved/Last revision: 2012 (Geography and Economic strands)

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/CivicsSocialStudies.aspx>

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Social-studies>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum in each district in alignment with the Geography strand of the Rhode Island Social Studies GSEs.

### Information Source

Phyllis Lynch, Director  
Instruction, Assessment, & Curriculum  
[Phyllis.lynch@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Phyllis.lynch@ride.ri.gov)  
(401) 222-8490

Rhode Island Department of Education website:  
<http://www.ride.ri.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## South Carolina

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Early Cultures to 1600  
 Grade 7: Contemporary Cultures: 1600 to the Present  
 Grade 8: South Carolina: One of the United States

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
 United States History and Constitution (1 credit)  
 Economics (0.5 credit)  
 United States Government (0.5 credit)  
 Social Studies elective (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography  
 Grade 9-12 AP Human Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards  
 Approved: 2011  
 Next revision: 2016

<http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/agency/ccr/Standards-Learning/documents/FINALAPPROVEDSSStandardsAugust182011.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
 Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is represented throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum via social studies literacy skills.

### Information Source

South Carolina Department of Education website:  
<http://ed.sc.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## South Dakota

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet South Dakota Department of Education minimum of 3 social studies credits, which must include:

United States History (1 credit)

United States Government (0.5 credit)

World History (0.5 credit)

**Geography (0.5 credit)**

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards

Adopted: August 2015

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/SocialStd.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
Grade 9-12: Geography

Geography is a strand in:  
Grade 7: Social Studies

### Information Source

Teresa Berndt  
Program Specialist  
[teresa.berndt@state.sd.us](mailto:teresa.berndt@state.sd.us)  
(605) 773-2490

South Dakota Department of Education website:  
<http://doe.sd.gov>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Tennessee

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

**Grade 6: World History and Geography: Early Civilization through the Decline of the Roman Empire (5<sup>th</sup> century C.E.)**  
**Grade 7: World History and Geography: The Middle Ages to the Exploration of the Americas**  
**Grade 8: United States History and Geography: Colonization of North America, Reconstruction, and the West**

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
**United States History and Geography (1 credit)**  
**World History and Geography (1 credit)**  
 United States Government and Civics (0.5 credit)  
 Economics (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World Geography  
 Grade 9-12: AP World Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Tennessee Social Studies Standards

Adopted: July 2013

Next revision: 2018

<https://www.tn.gov/education/article/social-studies-standards>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
 Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is a strand in:  
 Grade 6: World History and Geography  
 Grade 7: World History and Geography  
 Grade 8: United States History and Geography  
 Grade 9-12: All required, elective, and AP history courses

### Information Source

Kadie Patterson  
 Social Studies Curriculum Specialist  
 Tennessee Department of Education  
[kadie.patterson@tn.gov](mailto:kadie.patterson@tn.gov)

Tennessee Department of Education website:  
<http://www.tn.gov/education/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Texas

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: Social Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
United States History (1 credit)  
World History or World Geography (1 credit)  
United States Government (0.5 credit)  
Economics (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography  
Grade 9-12: IB Geography, Standard Level  
Grade 9-12: IB Geography, Higher Level  
Grade 9-12: Special Topics in Social Studies\*

\*Course content is local decision, but can be a geography course

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels. The TEKS were also created using committees of teachers who write them, social studies experts who review and edit them, comments from the public, and then adopted by the SBO. It is unclear what other frameworks were used.

### Standards Documents

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies

Adopted: 1998

Last revised: May 2010

Next revision: 2017 (streamlining only)

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/index.html>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well as:

Grade 9-12: United States History  
Grade 9-12: World History  
Grade 9-12: Government

### Information Source

Shelly Ramos  
Curriculum Division Director  
Texas Education Agency  
[shelly.ramos@tea.texas.gov](mailto:shelly.ramos@tea.texas.gov)  
(512) 463-9581

Texas Education Agency website:  
<http://tea.texas.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.



## Utah

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: World Studies  
Grade 7: Utah Studies  
Grade 8: United States History 1

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
**Geography for Life (0.5 credit)**  
World Civilizations (0.5 credit)  
United States History (1 credit)  
United States Government and Citizenship (0.5 credit)  
Social Studies Elective (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography

### Notes

The Utah standards were created after consulting the latest research on educational standards as well as a range of state standards and *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards, 1994*.

### Standards Documents

Utah Core Standards  
Adopted: August 2010  
Next revision: In progress

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/Core.aspx>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
Grade 9-12: Geography for Life

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well as:  
Grade 9-12: World Civilizations

### Information Source

Robert Austin, Specialist  
International Licensing and Initiatives, K-12 Social Studies, Professional Development  
Utah State office of Education  
[robert.austin@schools.utah.gov](mailto:robert.austin@schools.utah.gov)  
(801)538-7575

Utah State Office of Education website:  
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/main/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Vermont

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state: Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- social studies courses, besides those required by the state or local graduation requirements, are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create geography standards and strands at all levels.

### Standards Documents

Grade Expectations for Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities

Adopted: 2000

Next revision: In progress

<http://education.vermont.gov/history>

Global Citizenship Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements

Written: 2014

<http://education.vt.gov/pbgr/sample-pbgr>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is a separate strand in the Grade Expectations. Student expectations are organized under these statements: 1) **Students interpret geography and solve geographic problems by...** 2) **Students show understanding of human interaction with the environment over time by...**; and 3) **Students analyze how and why cultures continue and change over time by...**

### Information Source

Sigrid Olson  
Social Studies Specialist / Tech Integration  
Vermont Agency of Education  
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(802) 371.8028

Vermont Agency of Education website:  
<http://education.vermont.gov/>  
Vermont Agency of Education email:  
[AOE.EdInfo@vermont.gov](mailto:AOE.EdInfo@vermont.gov)

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Virginia

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state: Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 3  
 United States and Virginia History (1 credit)  
 United States and Virginia Government (1 credit)  
 World History or World Geography (1 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: World History and Geography to 1500 AD (CE)  
 Grade 9-12: World History and Geography: 1500 AD (CE) to the Present  
 Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography  
 Grade 9-12: IB Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Virginia Standards of Learning

Adopted:

Current Standards in use: 2008

Most recent adoption, History and Social Studies: 2015

Next revision: 2015

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/history\\_socialscience/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml)

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography has a separate set of standards in:  
 Grade 9-12: World Geography

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-8 social studies curriculum as a strand, as well as:

Grade 9-12: Virginia Studies

Grade 9-12: United States History to 1865

Grade 9-12: United States History 1865 to present

Grade 9-12: World History and Geography to 1500 AD

Grade 9-12: World History and Geography: 1500 AD to the Present

### Information Source

Virginia Department of Education website:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Washington

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: Social Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits:  
United States History (1 credit)  
**Contemporary World History, Geography, and  
World Problems (1 credit)**  
Civics (0.5 credit)  
Social Studies elective (0.5 credit)

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography

### Notes

### Standards Documents

Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards

Adopted: 2008

Last revision: 2013

Next revision: None scheduled

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/pubdocs/SocialStudiesStandards.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

Carol Coe  
Social Studies Supervisor  
Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
[Carol.coe@k12.wa.us](mailto:Carol.coe@k12.wa.us)  
(360) 725-6351

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/default.aspx>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## West Virginia

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Grade 6: Social Studies  
Grade 7: Social Studies  
Grade 8: West Virginia Studies

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Total credits: 4  
Grade 9: World Studies (1 credit)  
Grade 10: United States Studies (1 credit)  
Grade 11: Contemporary Studies (1 credit)  
Grade 12: Civics for the Next Generation or AP Government (1 credit)  
\*Grade 9-11 AP Substitutions:  
    AP United States History  
    AP European Studies  
    AP Human Geography  
    Civics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century or AP Government and Politics

### Other Geography Courses

Grade 9-12: AP Human Geography- elective course that may be used to fulfill one of the social studies requirements.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards, National Standards for History, National Standards for Social Studies, the National Voluntary Standards for Economics, the National Standards for Civics, and Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects* were used to create the West Virginia Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for Social Studies.

### Standards Documents

Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for Social Studies in West Virginia.  
Last revision: 2012  
Next revision: None scheduled

<http://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/readfile.aspx?DocId=23480&Format=PDF>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

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West Virginia Department of Education website:  
<https://wvde.state.wv.us/>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Wisconsin

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state- Social studies courses are determined by each school district and the curriculum must meet all the standards set by the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- graduation requirements are determined by each school district and the curriculum must meet all the standards set by the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state- geography course offerings are determined by each school district and the curriculum must meet all the standards set by the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies.

### Notes

*Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* was used to create the geography strand of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies.

### Standards Documents

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies

Adopted: 1998

Next revision: None scheduled

[http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/stn\\_ssintro](http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/stn_ssintro)

\*Districts can choose to adopt the state standards, write their own, or adopt other standards.

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

Geography is embedded throughout the 6-12 social studies curriculum as a strand.

### Information Source

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website:  
<http://dpi.wi.gov>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.

## Wyoming

### Middle School Social Studies Requirements

Local control state: Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### High School Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Local control state- Individual school districts set local graduation requirements, but must meet Wyoming Department of Education minimum of 3 social studies credits.

### Other Geography Courses

Local control state: Social studies courses are determined by individual school districts.

### Notes

### Standards Documents

2014 Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards

Last revision: December 2014

Next revision: 2022

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/standards/2015/2014-SS-WyCPS-FINAL.pdf>

### Geography: Standards and/or Strands

All Social Studies standards have a separate geography standard.

### Information Source

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Wyoming Department of Education website:  
<http://edu.wyoming.gov>

K-5 Social Studies are not included in this report.

**Bolded courses** are REQUIRED geography courses for completion of middle school or high school graduation.