



## 2024 Social Science Standards

In June of 2024, the State Board of Education is scheduled to adopt Oregon's updated K-12 Social Science Standards that outline the knowledge and skills students are expected to attain in the areas of history, geography, civics, and economics at each grade level from kindergarten through high school.

### Related Laws & Legislative History

The new standards also address several recent laws from the Oregon Legislature and Governor, including ethnic studies, and Holocaust and genocide education:

- 2017: Senate Bill 2845/SB 2023 Ethnic Studies ([ORS 329.045](#))
  - Inclusion of ethnic studies in the K-12 social science standards.
  - Instructional materials supportive of integrated social science standards
- 2018: Senate Bill 664 Holocaust and Other Genocides ([ORS 329.494](#))
  - Requires K-12 education about the Holocaust and other genocides
  - Guidance documents provided to address Holocaust and genocide concepts.
- 2021: SB 513/SB702 Civics Education ([ORS 329.045](#))
  - Requires a .5 credit and course for US Government and Civics for Oregon diploma
  - Social science standards to emphasize civics education
- 2023: Senate Bill 2905 Expanding Ethnic Studies ([ORS 329.045](#))
  - Adds Jewish descent to groups included in ethnic studies

### Timeline for Implementing Social Science Standards

- **Spring 2024** - Review public feedback
- **Summer 2024** - Standards proposed adopted by the State Board of Education
- **Fall 2024** - Instructional materials evaluation criteria informed by engagement adopted by the State Board of Education. ODE will then work with social science publishers and will convene an evaluation committee to review social science materials for the state approved list.

**All school districts in Oregon will be required to implement the new Social Science Standards by the academic year 2026-2027.**

## More Information

Visit [Oregon's Social Science Standards](#) webpage.

Contact us with questions at [ODE.SocialScience@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.SocialScience@ode.oregon.gov)

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## Social Science Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is social science?**

- A. In Oregon, Social science includes the disciplines of geography, history, civics, and economics. Social science examines and explains historical developments, political structures, social interactions, cultural norms, geographic systems, and economic exchange through research, analysis, and theoretical frameworks. Social science can also sometimes be referred to as social studies.

### **Q. What are Oregon's Social Science Standards?**

- A. Oregon's Social Science Standards outline the knowledge and skills students attain in the domains of history, geography, civics, and economics at each grade level, K-12.

### **Q. Are Ethnic Studies included in the Social Science Standards?**

- A. Yes. Oregon HB2845 defined ethnic studies as including the histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented individuals and groups. Since 2021, the social science standards have included these concepts and perspectives to provide a more complete understanding of history, civics, economics, and civics.

### **Q. Do the standards create an ethnic studies course?**

- A. No. Students engage with ethnic studies concepts within their regular social science curriculum. School districts may decide to offer additional coursework as electives building on the learning from the required standards.

### **Q. Does Oregon require teaching on the Holocaust and other genocides?**

- A. Yes. Holocaust and Other Genocide Education is mandated by Senate Bill 644, ensuring that students learn about historical atrocities such as the Holocaust and other

genocides. Concepts related to Holocaust and genocide education are included in the Social Science Standards.

**Q. How are the social science standards related to Tribal History/Shared History**

- A. The Tribal History/Shared History lesson plans support the teaching of the [Essential Understandings of Native Americans in Oregon](#). Lessons are offered throughout K-12 in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Health, and Social Science. The 2024 Social Science standards include specific references to the Tribal History/Shared History lessons.

**Q. How are teachers supported in implementing these standards?**

A. Teachers are supported through resources, professional development opportunities, and ongoing guidance provided by Oregon's Open Learning platform, the Oregon Department of Education's Social Science webpage, and monthly newsletters. Additionally, Senate Bill 1050 allocates resources to create professional learning specifically designed to support social science educators in the implementation of Ethnic Studies as well as Holocaust and genocide studies.

**Q. When will the revised Social Science Standards be adopted?**

- A. The Social Science Advisory Panel is responsible for reviewing and revising the standards on a seven-year adoption cycle. A draft of the standards is shared with the public for review and feedback before a presentation to the State Board of Education. The current timeline includes the adoption by the State Board of Education of the revised standards in June 2024.

**Q. How were the 2024 Social Science Standards created?**

- A. *A Social Science Teacher Advisory Panel reviewed and offered revisions to the 2021 Social Science Standards. Community groups, educators, and the public provided additional comments and feedback before the State Board of Education reviewed and approved the 2024 Social Science Standards.*

**Q. Are all school districts required to implement the Social Science Standards?**

- A. Yes. All school districts in Oregon must implement the Social Science Standards by the academic year 2026-2027.

**Q. How can community partners get involved in supporting these initiatives?**

- A. Community partners can support these initiatives by providing feedback on curriculum materials, and collaborating with educators and policymakers to promote culturally responsive teaching practices.

**Q. Where can I find more information about Oregon's Social Science Standards and related initiatives?**

- A. Resources supporting Oregon's Social Science Standards, Ethnic Studies integration, Holocaust and genocide education, and professional development opportunities are available on the [Oregon Department of Education's website](#), [social science webpages](#), and through the [Oregon Open Learning platform](#).