

Sample Resolution

for South Dakota School Boards Consideration

November, 2022

South Dakota teachers, administrators and school board members from around the state made clear in public comment and testimony during the State Board of Education Standards hearings their serious concerns with the proposed Social Studies standards from the Social Studies Content Standards Commission.

We, the _____ School Board, oppose the proposed Social Studies standards for the following reasons:

Whereas:

1. The process of revising the Social Studies standards was done in a manner that did not consult the expertise of South Dakota educators in their development, as has been the practice for decades of standards revision;
2. The proposed Social Studies standards are not based on educational best practices, but rather are written as tasks, not standards;
3. Many of the proposed Social Studies standards are not age appropriate for students, lack depth of knowledge, higher order thinking and do not address skill development;
4. The proposed standards would require excessive contact hours to teach to students, which would take time away from other curricular subjects;
5. Current Social Studies materials used in schools do not align with the proposed Social Studies standards, which will result in new materials, teacher training and resources needing to be purchased at a high cost to schools.

Therefore, we, the _____ School Board respectfully ask the State Board of Education Standards request the Department of Education reconvene the Social Studies workgroup from 2021, with instructions for the workgroup to revise their draft with consideration of the Social Studies Content Standards Commission's proposal. The goal should be a third proposed set of standards as a compromise between the first two Social Studies content standards proposals.