

Policy 6142.94: History-Social Science Instruction

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2009 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2025
Updated: 08/20/2025

The Governing Board believes that the study of history and other social sciences is essential to prepare students to engage in responsible citizenship, comprehend complex global interrelationships, and understand the vital connections among the past, present, and future, as well as to establish a foundation for the appreciation of different ethnicities, the wise use of natural resources, and the responsible management of personal finance. The district's history-social science education program shall include, at appropriate grade levels, instruction in American and world history, geography, economics, political science, anthropology, psychology, and sociology.

The Board shall adopt academic standards for history-social science which meet or exceed state content standards and describe the knowledge and skills students are expected to possess at each grade level.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and submit to the Board for approval a comprehensive, sequential curriculum aligned with the district standards and consistent with the state's curriculum framework for history-social science. The curriculum shall be designed to develop students' core knowledge in history and social science and their skills in chronological and spatial thinking, research, and historical interpretation. History-social science instruction shall also include an explicit focus on developing students' literacy in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and other language skills.

The Board shall adopt standards-aligned instructional materials for history-social science in accordance with applicable law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. Additionally, teachers are encouraged to supplement the curriculum, in accordance with Board Policy 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials, by using biographies, original documents, diaries, letters, legends, speeches, other narrative artifacts, and literature from and about the period being studied.

Personal testimony from persons who can provide first-hand accounts of significant historical events is encouraged and may be provided through oral histories, videos, or other multimedia formats. If oral history is used for instruction related to the role of Americans in World War II or the Vietnam War, such testimony shall exemplify the personal sacrifice and courage of the wide range of ordinary citizens who were called upon to participate in the war, provide views and comments concerning reasons for participating in the war, and provide commentary on the aftermath of the war in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. (Education Code 51221.3, 51221.4)

District high schools shall annually observe, during the week that includes April 28, "Workplace Readiness Week" by providing information to students on their rights as workers, including topics specified in Education Code 49110.5. For students in grades 11 and 12, the "Workplace Readiness Week" observances shall be integrated into the regular school program, consistent with the history-social science framework. (Education Code 49110.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a standards-based professional development program designed to increase teachers' knowledge of adopted instructional materials and instructional strategies for teaching history-social science.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly evaluate and report to the Board regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the history-social science curriculum at each grade level, including, but not limited to, the extent to which the program is aligned with state standards, any applicable student assessment results, and feedback from students, parents/guardians, and staff regarding the program.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 33540	History-social science framework course requirements
Ed. Code 33540.2	Model curriculum related to Vietnamese American refugee experience
Ed. Code 33540.4	Model curriculum related to Cambodian American history and heritage
Ed. Code 33540.6	Model curriculum related to Hmong history and cultural studies
Ed. Code 33548	Media literacy and artificial intelligence literacy curriculum frameworks
Ed. Code 49110.5	Workplace readiness week
Ed. Code 51008-51009	Instruction on farm labor movement
Ed. Code 51204	Course of study designed for student's needs
Ed. Code 51204.5	History of California; contributions of specified groups
Ed. Code 51210	Course of study for grades 1-6
Ed. Code 51220	Course of study for grades 7-12

Ed. Code 51220.2	Instruction in legal system; teen or peer court programs
Ed. Code 51221	Social science course of study; inclusion of instruction in use of natural resources
Ed. Code 51221.1	California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education
Ed. Code 51221.3-51221.4	Instruction on World War II and Vietnam War; use of oral histories
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.32	Personal finance course; curriculum guide and resources
Ed. Code 51226.3	Instruction on civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust
Ed. Code 51226.7	Model curriculum in ethnic studies
Ed. Code 60040-60051	Criteria for instructional materials
Ed. Code 60119	Sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials; hearing and resolution
Ed. Code 60200-60213	Instructional materials; grades K-8
Ed. Code 60400-60411	Instructional materials; high schools
Ed. Code 60640-60648.5	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
Ed. Code 99200-99204	Subject matter projects
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education Publication	César E. Chávez Model Curriculum
California Department of Education Publication	Southeast Asia Model Curricula, 2024
California Department of Education Publication	Personal Finance Curriculum Guide, 2024
California Department of Education Publication	Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, 2020
California Department of Education Publication	California English Language Development Standards, 2012
California Department of Education Publication	Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History-Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, 2013
California Department of Education Publication	Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide, 2000
California Department of Education Publication	History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, October 1998

California Department of Education Publication	History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2016
Court Decision	Westminster School District of Orange County v. Mendez (1947) 161 F.2d 774
National Council for the Social Studies Pub.	College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards, 2013
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Council for History Education
Website	National Association for Multicultural Education
Website	National Council for History Education
Website	California History-Social Science Course Models
Website	California Humanities
Website	California Subject Matter Project
Website	National Council for the Social Studies
Website	California Council for the Social Studies
Website	California Department of Education
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
0400	Comprehensive Plans
0500	Accountability
1312.2	Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials
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1312.2	Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials
4131	Staff Development
5145.9	Hate-Motivated Behavior
6011	Academic Standards
6115	Ceremonies And Observances
6115	Ceremonies And Observances
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation

6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6142.2	World Language Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction
6142.3	Civic Education
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6142.91	Reading/Language Arts Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6144	Controversial Issues
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.6	Use Of Copyrighted Materials
6162.6	Use Of Copyrighted Materials
6163.1	Library Media Centers
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6179	Supplemental Instruction
9000	Role Of The Board