

## Information and Links related to Virginia Board of Education authority and processes governing the establishment and revision of the Virginia Standards of Learning

### **Background:**

To assist with the response to recent inquiries regarding media coverage of revisions to the Virginia Standards of Learning for History, the Salem City School Division offers the following information and opportunities the Commonwealth establishes for all citizens to provide input.

[Article VIII, Section 5 of the Virginia Constitution](#) establishes the State Board of Education (BOE) and in Article VIII, Section 5 outlines the powers and duty of the BOE, including:

*(a) Subject to such criteria and conditions as the General Assembly may prescribe, the Board shall divide the Commonwealth into school divisions of such geographical area and school-age population as will promote the realization of the prescribed standards of quality, and shall periodically review the adequacy of existing school divisions for this purpose.*

Accordingly, unlike many other states that have “independent school districts,” Virginia has “school divisions” that are subject to the standards and regulations established by the State Board of Education by virtue of being “divisions” of the BOE.

### **Summary of Issue:**

The Virginia Board of Education (BOE) and the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) maintain a recurring process to review, revise, and update the Standards of Learning (SOL) for all content areas every seven years. Here is the schedule for the current cycle:

### **STANDARDS OF LEARNING ANTICIPATED APPROVAL SCHEDULE (updated January 2021)**

CONTENT AREA	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Physical Education and Driver Education			X					
World Language		X						
History and Social Science			X					
English					X			
Mathematics				X				
Science						X		
Digital Learning Integration								X
Health								X
Fine Arts								X
Computer Science					X			

**Opportunities for Input and Participation:**

The Standards of Learning review and revision process is designed to be participatory. To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education conducts public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning.

Thirty days prior to conducting these hearings, the Board is required to give notice of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its intention to revise the Standards of Learning in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions of the Standards of Learning.

Nothing in the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-253.13:1-B prohibits the Board from conducting reviews and revision on a more frequent basis. Occasionally technical edits/updates are made to the existing standards.

Technical edits were made to the 2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning in October 2020. The strikethrough underline version of the changes can be found at the following link: [History and Social Science Curriculum Framework - Strikethrough underline version](#).

New academic content Standards of Learning for history and social science were first developed in 1995 and revised in 2001, 2008, and again in 2015. On January 28, 2021, The Virginia Board of Education authorized the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to proceed with the review and revision process of the *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* consistent with the schedule adopted by the Board in September 2000. It is anticipated that the Standards revision will be completed before November 2022.

The timeline for the History and Social Studies Review and Revision process can be found at the link below. The State plans to present the First Review of the Proposed 2022 History and Social Science Standards of Learning to the Virginia Board of Education in July of 2022. In July of 2022, the Virginia Department of Education will communicate a schedule for Public Hearings to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback.

The Department of Education presents the timeline for the review and revision process of the *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* and *Curriculum Framework* to the Board of Education. This timeline may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. [Timeline for the History and Social Science Standards of Learning Review and Revision Process](#)

**To Request Notifications of Opportunities to Participate and Provide Input:**

Anyone interested in following the work of the BOE/DOE and participating in opportunities to offer comment at the state-level is encouraged to sign up to receive VDOE News Releases here: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/news/index.shtml>

To receive email notifications from the Board of Education regarding upcoming public meetings, opportunities for public comment, etc. please contact [Emily Webb](#), Director for Board Relations.