# Superintendent’s Memo #286-20

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: October 23 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Adoption of the Edits from the Governor’s Commission on African American History Education

On October 15, 2020, the Board of Education (BOE) approved the recommended edits from the [African American History Education Commission (AAHEC)](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-39-Establishment-of-the-Commission-on-African-American-History-Education-in-the-Commonwealth.pdf) to the *Curriculum Frameworks* for Kindergarten, Grade One, Grade Two, Virginia Studies, United States History to 1865, United States History: 1865 to the Present, and Virginia and United States History. See 2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning ([Item H – Attachment A](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-h-attachment-a.docx)), and the addition of Virginia and United States History substandard VUS.8g ([Item H – Attachment D](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-h-attachment-d.docx)). The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) was authorized to proceed with updating the History and Social Science Standards of Learning Curriculum *Frameworks* for the identified courses.

School divisions are encouraged to adjust the locally developed curriculum during the 2020-2021 school year and fully implement the approved changes to the identified *Curriculum Frameworks* beginning in the fall of 2021 recognizing that curriculum alignment efforts require planning, time, staff development, and resources. The VDOE’s history and social science program will work in partnership with local school divisions, the Virginia Social Studies Leadership Consortium (VSSLC), local historians, Virginia museums, and colleges and universities to provide resources, materials and professional development that correlate with the approved changes starting in November 2020 ([Item H – Attachment B](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-h-attachment-b.docx)). School divisions are encouraged to use the remainder of the 2020-2021 year to:

* review and align history and social science curricula with the approved changes;
* review current resource materials and correlate them with the approved changes;
* develop new resources, performance tasks, and performance assessments aligned to the approved changes; and
* provide aligned professional development and follow-up on [VDOE](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/history/index.shtml) teacher training provided to teachers.

The current Standards of Learning (SOL) tests will not be revised to reflect changes to the *Curriculum Framework* as a result of the AAHEC's work; SOL tests will be updated after the approval of 2022 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* are finalized and pending available funding.

If you have any questions about the approved changes for the identified Curriculum Framework review, please contact Christonya Brown, Coordinator for History and Social Science, Office of Humanities, by email at [Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov), or telephone at (804) 225-2893; or Brandi McCracken, Elementary Specialist for History and Social Science, Office of Humanities by email at [Brandi.McCracken@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Brandi.McCracken@doe.virginia.gov), or telephone at (804) 225-3454.

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