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| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |

# Agenda Item: H

## Date: October 14, 2020

## Title: Final Review of the Recommendations for Technical Edits from the Governor’s Commission on African American History Education in Virginia

#### Presenter: Ms. Christonya Brown, History and Social Science Coordinator

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**Purpose of Presentation:**

Other initiative or requirement. Specify below:

Final Review the recommendations made by the Standards Subcommittee of the Governor’s Commission on African American History Education in Virginia (the Commission).

## Executive Summary:

The Standards Subcommittee of the Governor’s Commission on African American History Education in Virginia (the Commission) recommended in their [final report](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/secretary-of-education/pdf/AAHEC-Report-Final_version2.pdf) to Governor Ralph Northam on Monday, August 31, 2020, technical edits 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. These recommendations were for the purpose of “enriching the standards related to African American history.”

On September 17, 2020, Department staff presented the Commission’s recommendations to the Board for first review. Recommendations aligned to the Commission’s charge have been integrated into the Curriculum Frameworks (Attachment A) for Board final approval. Content recommendations extending beyond the Commission’s charge, will be considered as part of the 2022 History and Social Science Standards of Learning review and revision process.

The Board of Education has made a commitment to maintain rigorous and relevant expectations for student learning that meet or exceed national and international benchmarks for college and career readiness. The Standards of Quality require the Board of Education to review the Standards of Learning on a regular schedule.

[Section 22.1-253.13:1-B](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13%3A1/) of the Code of Virginia states:

“The Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis…”

**Action Requested:**

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

Upon review of public comment submitted between September 17 to October 8, 2020.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for approval the recommendations from the Governor’s Commission on African American History Education in Virginia.

**Previous Review or Action:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority:

On August 24th Governor Ralph Northam signed [Executive Order Thirty Nine](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-39-Establishment-of-the-Commission-on-African-American-History-Education-in-the-Commonwealth.pdf) establishing the Commission on African American History Education. The Governor charged the group with reviewing Virginia’s history standards, and the instructional practices, content, and resources currently used to teach African American history in the Commonwealth; and with examining and make recommendations on the professional development supports needed to equip all teachers for culturally competent instruction.

Leading the Standards Subcommittee was Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of History, Norfolk State University as chair. The Standards Subcommittee was divided into three work groups: Technical Edits, Standards Overhaul, and Process Review. The Technical Edit workgroup, led by Dr. Edward Ayers, Professor of the Humanities, University of Richmond, presented their work product for review through virtual meetings on July 6, 14, 15, and 16, 2020. The Standards Subcommittee reviewed and approved recommendations. Virginia Department of Education senior leadership and staff have reviewed the recommendations and organized the charts for the Board’s review.

The Standards Subcommittee made recommendations to the content available in the 2015 *History and Social Science* Curriculum Frameworks. The recommendations, categorized as “technical edits” clarify, correct, or add context to statements or content presently in the Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework. While there is no requirement within the Standards of Quality or the Standards of Accreditation for the Board to approve the Curriculum Frameworks, or any changes to it, the Board has had a historical role in the development and approval of the Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework documents.

Upon review of public comment submitted, Department staff revised 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 (Attachment A) to reflect the recommendations of the Standards Subcommittee of the Governor’s Commission on African American History Education. In addition, Department staff consulted with Dr. Newby-Alexander and Dr. Ayers to review the revisions. To facilitate the implementation of the additional content into local division curriculum and classroom instruction, Department staff will provide the following supports in Attachments A and B:

* Curriculum Frameworks Proposed Edits highlighting the additions or strike through of new content to a crosswalk document (Attachment A); and
* Crosswalk Document outlining a draft document to communicate the proposed changes with sources, resources, and materials for consideration (Attachment B).

Additional information is provided for the Board’s review in Attachments C – E:

* Items not included in the revised Curriculum Frameworks are outlined in the Considerations for the 2022 History and Social Science Review and Revision Process (Attachment C);
* An Additional Standard for consideration for the Virginia and United States History Curriculum Framework (Attachment D); and
* A projected timeline for the development and implementation of the proposed recommendations and the Review and Revision of the History and Social Science Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework Documents (Attachment E).

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

It is anticipated that the Virginia Department of Education staff will begin implementing the schedule for the full review and revision of the *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* and the Curriculum Framework as outlined in the presentation.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The fiscal and human impact to the Department will be related to the development of resources and professional development associated with the Commission’s technical edits and the review and revision process.