# Agenda Item: G

## Date: April 20, 2023

## Title: Final Review of the Proposed Revised 2023 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*

## Executive Summary:

The proposed, revised 2022 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* describe the Commonwealth's broad goals for student learning and achievement in grades K-12 history, civics, geography, and economics. Section 22.1-253.13:1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires a review of each Standards of Learning subject area at least once every seven years. Pursuant to legislation from the 2000 Virginia General Assembly, the Board established a seven-year cycle for review of the Standards of Learning. Thus, the History and Social Science Standards of Learning originally adopted by the Board in 1995 were reviewed and revised in 2001, 2008, and 2015.

In [August 2022](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/35742/638054987968770000) the Board received a presentation from VDOE about the process used to review and revise the standards to date. In [November 2022](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/27106/638045706856630000), the Board received a follow up presentation from VDOE providing a revision to the standards to date. At the November Board of Education meeting, VDOE was directed to use the November draft as a baseline document and to correct omissions, errors, consider public and board member comments, and to incorporate elements from the August draft and 2015 Standards. In [February 2023](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/42426/638106894905470000), the Board received an additional follow-up presentation from VDOE presenting revised draft standards fulfilling all directives of the Board. Between February 3 and March 21, 2023, VDOE opened up public comment for the Proposed Revised 2023 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* and conducted six public hearings across the Commonwealth. [Public hearings](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/history-and-social-science/standards-of-learning/review-revision-of-the-history-social-science-standards-of-learning) were held in Williamsburg, Mt. Vernon, Charlottesville, Roanoke, Abingdon, and Farmville between March 13–21, 2023. Recommendations in the proposed document includes corrections made by VDOE staff to errors and the combined collaborative edits to the Standards made by Board members.

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Rationale for Action:

Pursuant to legislation from the 2000 Virginia General Assembly, the Board established a seven-year cycle for review of the Standards of Learning. Thus, the History and Social Science Standards of Learning originally adopted by the Board in 1995 are scheduled for approval.

## Previous Review or Action:

Previous review or action. Specify date and action taken below:

* **Date:** August 17, 2022

**Action:** No Board Action on Proposed Standards and Curriculum Framework

* **Date:** September 15, 2022  
  **Action:** No Board Action on Work Session on Updated Timeline
* **Date**: November 17, 2022  
  **Action**: No Board Action on Proposed Standards
* **Date**: February 2, 2023  
  **Action**: Board accepted document for First Review

## Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Section [22.1-253.13:1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:1/#v1/) of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Board to establish educational objectives to form the core of Virginia’s educational program and require that the Standards be reviewed every seven years. It states, in part:

1. The General Assembly and the Board of Education believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools of the Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school, preparation for life, and reaching their full potential. The General Assembly and the Board of Education find that the quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment, benefits, and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the appropriate learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that enables each student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of America; and (iv) the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the General Assembly shall provide for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia.
2. The Board of Education shall establish educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which shall form the core of Virginia's educational program, and other educational objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the years beyond. At a minimum, the Board shall establish Standards of Learning for English, mathematics, science, and history and social science. The Standards of Learning shall not be construed to be regulations as defined in § [2.2-4001](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-4001/).  
      
   The Board shall seek to ensure that the Standards of Learning are consistent with a high-quality foundation educational program. The Standards of Learning shall include, but not be limited to, the basic skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); computation and critical reasoning, including problem solving and decision making; proficiency in the use of computers and related technology; computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding; and the skills to manage personal finances and to make sound financial decisions.  
      
   The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning. 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 area 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.  
      
   To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall 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.

[Public hearings](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/history-and-social-science/standards-of-learning/review-revision-of-the-history-social-science-standards-of-learning) were held in Williamsburg, Mt. Vernon, Charlottesville, Roanoke, Abingdon, and Farmville between March 13–21, 2023. 751 attended the six public hearings with 294 speakers presenting considerations prior to final adoption for the Standards of Learning. Attachment A, Chart I outlines specific data regarding public hearing attendance. Public comments were also collected through a QR code and an online mailbox at [vdoe.hss@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vdoe.hss@doe.virginia.gov). Over 1,600 public comments were submitted during this comment period. Transcripts and summaries of the Board’s public hearings can be accessed on the “[Review & Revision of the 2023 History & Social Science Standards of Learning](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/history-and-social-science/standards-of-learning/review-revision-of-the-history-social-science-standards-of-learning)” page of the VDOE website. Public comments received between February 3, 2023, and March 21, 2023, fall into the following categories: Accuracy of Content, Excessive Content, Inclusion of Additional Content, Age Appropriateness of Content, and Sequencing of Content and staff provided rationales for any recommendations. Proposed recommendations are included in a clean-copy, red-lined version of corrections to errors made by VDOE staff (Attachment A).

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

In anticipation of the Board’s acceptance of the standards for approval, the following timeline is proposed for next steps and actions:

* May 2023–September 2023: Curriculum Framework Development
* November 2023–August 2024: Textbook Approval
* August 2024–June 2025: Crossover
* August 2025: Full Implementation of the History and Social Science Standards of Learning

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Financial and human resources will be necessary to complete the Curriculum Frameworks and conduct textbook review in order to fully implement the proposed Standards August 2025. VDOE staff will convene stakeholders to review and revise documents to prepare Curriculum Frameworks for each course. Additional delays in the timeline will impact local school divisions instructionally and financially as the Standards for Mathematics will come to the Board in 2023.