



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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To: NC Superintendents, C and I Leaders, Chief Academic Officers, CTE Directors,  
and Education Stakeholders

From: Dr. David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

## IMPORTANT UPDATES REGARDING SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS REVISIONS

This memo is intended to answer some recent questions related to the revision process of the K-12 Social Studies Standards, inclusive of the new Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy (FPUSANCCCL) and Economics and Personal Finance (EPF) required courses.

### BACKGROUND

[House Bill 924](#), signed into law in July 2019, specifies several requirements impacting K-12 Social Studies. The legislation requires two full credit courses for high school graduation:

- Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy
- Economics and Personal Finance

*SECTION 5 specifies that, “The State Board of Education shall begin the process for review and revision of the standard course of study for social studies in grades kindergarten through 12 in the 2019-2020 school year and shall revise the high school standard course of study in accordance with the requirements of this section for the EPF course and the Founding Principles of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy course. The State Board shall review the high school standard course of study to determine the high school grade level during which the EPF course and the Founding Principles of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy course may be completed. The State Board of Education shall not require more than four full-course credits in social studies for high school graduation.”*

### SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS REVISION

The K-12 Social Studies standards are currently undergoing the revision process, with the first public comment period completed February 15, 2020, and the Draft 2 standards are expected to be available for review by the end of March 2020. We encourage you to participate in responding to these revisions through the approval of the final standards by the State Board of Education, anticipated by June 2020.

**DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF INNOVATION**

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## **REVISED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (GRAD-004)**

In January 2020, the State Board of Education approved updates to the GRAD-004 policy to align high school graduation requirements with the new required courses effective 2020-21.

*“FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2020-21. Students following the Future-Ready Core of Study must pass the following 22 credits:*

*[...]*

*Four Social Studies credits which shall be:*

- a. Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy*
- b. Economics and Personal Finance*
- c. American History*
- d. World History*

*[...]*

*“ FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9 FOR THE FIRST TIME between 2014-2015 and 2019-20. Students following the Future-Ready Core of Study must pass the following 22 credits:*

*[...]*

*Four Social Studies credits which shall be:*

*Effective 2020-21:*

- a. a founding principles course which shall be either:*
  - 1. American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics*
  - 2. Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy*
    - i. Note: These courses must follow the NCSCOS in its entirety and may not be satisfied by any other courses.*
- b. American history courses which shall be either:*
  - 1. American History I and American History II*
  - 2. American History I or II and another Social Studies course*
  - 3. American History and another Social Studies course*
- c. World History*

*Prior to 2020-21:*

- d. American History: Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics*
  - 1. Note: This course must follow the NCSCOS in its entirety and may not be satisfied by any other courses.*
- e. American History I*
- f. American History II*
- g. World History*

## **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE**

While school districts have local control to determine course sequencing based on the needs of their schools and students, NCDPI and the State Board of Education provide the following guidance to districts:

- Once the standards are approved, the 2020-21 school year will be used for *installation* of the standards, including the development of training and support materials, such as unpacking, crosswalks, and glossaries for each grade and course. The installation year is intended for stakeholders to become familiar with and prepared to implement the standards. Schools may opt to implement the new standards prior to state-wide implementation if they choose.
- Statewide implementation of the standards will occur during the 2021-22 school year. This is when all approved standards will be taught in NC public schools.
- While the EPF course is required for high school graduation beginning with Freshmen entering schools in the 2020-21 school year and beyond, it is strongly recommended that the required EPF course should not be taken until a student's Junior or Senior year of high school. This allows time to train teachers and meets the intent behind the legislation that the Junior or Senior years are the most appropriate times for students to receive this content in a way that is meaningful and relevant to their lives.
- The training for the EPF course is required by legislation to be provided by the NC Council for Economics Education:

*"To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board of Education shall require the employing entity to make available to EPF teachers and prospective EPF teachers the EPF professional development course provided by the North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE). When practicable, teachers shall complete the EPF professional development course prior to teaching the EPF course in public schools. If necessary, teachers may begin teaching the EPF course in public schools while awaiting the next possible opportunity to complete a session of the EPF professional development course. To the extent possible, the EPF professional development course shall be taken at the NCCEE-approved location most conveniently located to the local school administrative unit."*

While no budget has yet been provided to implement this part of the legislation, the NCCEE has begun plans to begin [training in Summer 2020](#) and is developing a program for teachers to apply to become an [EPF master teacher](#). Delaying implementation of the EPF course until at least the 2021-22 school year allows time for teachers across the state to begin receiving training throughout the summer and upcoming school year.

- Any teacher who receives the training can teach the newly required EPF course. This means existing social studies, career and technical education, mathematics, or other teachers could teach the course. The legislation allows teachers to begin teaching the course prior to receiving the NCCEE training, if necessary. If a CTE teacher teaches the

EPF course, CTE funds may not be used, but local funds and state general allotments (001) can be used to pay for the portion of the teacher's schedule devoted to teaching this course.

We are receiving some questions about the teaching of American History. The new requirements include a required Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy as well as an American History course. Some of the concepts from American History will be incorporated into the required topics in the Founding Principles of the United States and North Carolina: Civic Literacy course. The economics component of the current Founding Principles course will move over to the legislated EPF course, providing space within the Founding Principles course to cover essentials of civic life in the United States and some content that formerly resided in American History I.

### **HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Per Course for Credit (CCRE-001) policy, certain high school courses may be taken in middle school for high school credit to support advanced learners. As a result, there are current middle school students who have taken some high school social studies courses. *These students will continue to receive high school credit for the courses taken in middle school and the credits will appear on the high school transcript.* Due to the changes in the Social Studies graduation course requirements for students entering Grade 9 in 2020-21, those courses will not count towards the social studies graduation requirements, except for World History. Those courses taken in middle school will count towards the elective credit for high school graduation. NCDPI encourages LEAs and Charters to offer Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) for students interested in showing their mastery for the new courses. Students may use CDM for any eligible high school course, including American History or Founding Principles of the United States and North Carolina: Civic Literacy.

Please contact the following NCDPI personnel if you have further questions:

#### **Social Studies standards revision:**

Dr. Lori Major Carlin, Section Chief, K-12 Social Studies and Arts Education at [lori.carlin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lori.carlin@dpi.nc.gov). You may also stay informed of the revision process, including accessing current and proposed standards by visiting the Social Studies google site: <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/social-studies/home>.

#### **Graduation Requirements (GRAD-004) and Course for Credit (CCRE-001/CDM):**

Sneha Shah Coltrane, Director, Advanced Learning and Gifted Education at [sneha.shahcoltrane@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:sneha.shahcoltrane@dpi.nc.gov)

#### **Career and Technical Education related issues:**

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