

## Policy IHAC Social Studies Education

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Purpose: To establish the board's vision for social studies education.

Informed citizen participation in public life is essential to the health of our democratic system. A variety of experiences (including those using interdisciplinary approaches) in the social sciences of economics, sociology, psychology, geography, political science, anthropology, and history enables students to function effectively and contribute constructively within society. These experiences must include both learning about and using the tools of the social sciences. An effective social studies program must prepare young people to live, work, compete, and solve problems in our increasingly diverse nation and interdependent world.

The social studies program will provide the opportunity for each student to acquire the knowledge of content and concepts, develop critical thinking skills, and processing skills, and adopt values necessary for responsible social, political, and economic participation in a diverse, interdependent, and changing world.

The district will develop a curriculum to present learning opportunities to students so that skills and knowledge as presented in the state academic standards may be acquired. The curriculum will include instruction on the founding principles that shaped the United States, including, at a minimum, **the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation,** the Federalist Papers, the structure of government, the role of the separation of powers, and the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. ~~The curriculum will address kindergarten through 12th grade.~~

### Constitution and Citizenship Day

In accordance with federal law, the district will offer educational opportunities each year on September 17 to commemorate the September 17, 1787, signing of the United States Constitution (if this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day will be held during the preceding or following week). The superintendent will establish guidelines ensuring that the district observes Constitution Day in a manner befitting the importance of the event in the history of the United States of America.

### Veteran's Day

All schools in the district will provide one hour of class time or assembly time to honor veterans and to study the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. This hour of study will be on November 11, Veteran's Day, or as close as possible to this date if schools are closed.

Schools may allow students to attend activities to honor veterans on this day as part of the instructional day. Parents/Legal guardians may request in writing that their child be excused from participation in such activities.

Adopted 12/9/16 Legal references:

Federal Law:

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, [36 U.S.C.A. Section 106](#).

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 59-25-155](#) - South Carolina Founding Principles Act. [Section 59-29-55](#) - Instruction on Black history.

[Section 59-29-120](#) - Instruction required; attendance at Veteran activities. [Section 59-29-165](#) - Instruction in personal finance.

[Sections 59-29-410](#) through 430 - Financial literacy instruction.

[Sections 59-29-440](#) through 570 - South Carolina Financial Literacy Initiative.

State Board of Education Regulations:

[R43-231](#) - Defined program, grades K-5.

[R43-232](#) - Defined program, grades 6-8.

[R43-234](#) - Defined program, grades 9-12.