



Raising the Standards

Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders (FOIL)

November 6, 2025



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org

What Will you Gain from this Session?

- Session Goal:
 - Provide district and school leaders with updated information regarding social studies education.
- Session Topics:
 - Updates for standards, benchmarks and courses.
 - Upcoming professional learning events.
 - The Florida Instructional Materials Adoption process.
 - Additional instructional resources available.

FOIL Ball

- Write down an implementation strategy or topic for your social studies instruction for the 2025-26 school year that you're excited about, or a question you might ask a peer about social studies instruction.
- Place the paper in the aluminum foil and crumple it.

2025 Legislative Updates

House Bill 1255 (2025)

Financial Literacy

- Amended Section (s.) 1003.4282, Florida Statutes (F.S.), adding discussion or instruction on the “costs of postsecondary education, including cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarships and grants and student loans” to the personal financial literacy requirements for high school graduation.
- No changes to general education financial literacy standards or courses are needed to meet this requirement as it is already included within the benchmark.

Standards Updates

House Bill 1537 (2023)

History of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

- Amended s. 1003.42, F.S., requiring the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to be included in specified instruction and providing requirements for such instruction.
- A workgroup was convened to review Florida's state academic standards for alignment to these requirements.
- The workgroup provided the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) with recommendations and the proposed benchmarks were adopted in May 2024.

House Bill 1537 (2023)

9/11 Heroes' Day

- Created s. 683.335, F.S., which requires the Governor to proclaim September 11 of each year as “9/11 Heroes’ Day,” to be observed in all public schools.
- Additionally, it amended s. 1002.20, F.S., and requires all middle and high school students enrolled in a Civics or United States Government class to receive at least 45 minutes of instruction on “9/11 Heroes’ Day” topics.
- A Civics workgroup was convened to create standards specific to “9/11 Heroes’ Day.”

New and Revised Standards

- As initiated by HB 1537, a workgroup was convened and developed several new standards for the History of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- Additionally, while the workgroups were completing their respective tasks, they, along with other Florida educational stakeholders, suggested revisions to existing civics and government standards to improve accuracy as well as clarity for Florida teachers and students.

New and Revised Standards

- The proposed new and revised standards were then posted online January 24, 2024, and remained open for public comment until February 9, 2024.
- Public feedback was then incorporated into the standards.
- These Asian American and Pacific Islander History, 9/11 Heroes' Day and revised civics and government standards were adopted by the Florida State Board of Education in May 2024.

Senate Bill 1264 (2024)

History of Communism

- Amended s. 1003.42, F.S., adding the history of communism to be included in specified instruction and provided requirements for such instruction.
- The legislation will take full effect in the 2026-2027 school year.
- It further directs FDOE to prepare and offer standards aligned to the requirements of the bill.

Senate Bill 1264 (2024)

Instructional Requirements

- The history of communism in the United States and domestic communist movements, including their histories and tactics.
- Atrocities committed in foreign countries under the guidance of communism.
- Comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, which conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States.

Senate Bill 1264 (2024)

Instructional Requirements, continued

- The increasing threat of communism in the United States and to our allies through the 20th century, including the events of the cultural revolution in the People's Republic of China and other mass killings from communist regimes.
- The economic, industrial and political events that have preceded and anticipated communist revolutions.
- The communist policies of Cuba and the spread of communist ideologies throughout Latin America, including the roots of the Communist Party of Cuba and guerilla forces throughout Latin America.

Senate Bill 1264 (2024)

Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Standards Updates

- In response to Senate Bill 1264, FDOE called for a workgroup comprised of Florida social studies educators and national content experts.
- The workgroup met on a weekly basis for several months.
- A standalone strand of 6-12 standards for the history of communism was developed by the workgroup.

Senate Bill 1264

Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Standards Updates, continued

- The standards developed by the workgroup were posted for public comment from September 5, 2025 – September 19, 2025.
- Feedback from the public was incorporated into the standards.
- A rule workshop was held on September 25, 2025.
- These standards will go before the Florida State Board of Education for adoption next week.

History of Communism in Grades 6-8

- Due to the complexities associated with the history of communism, only one benchmark was developed for each middle school grade level.
 - Grade 6 – World History
 - SS.6.HC.1 Explain the failures of ancient communal systems.
 - Grade 7 – Civics
 - SS.7.HC.1 Assess the effects of communist governments.
 - Grade 8 – United States History
 - SS.8.HC.1 Examine early attempts at communal living in American society.

History of Communism in Grades 9-12

- A full stand-alone strand was developed for 9-12.
- These standards were developed to provide students with a comprehensive look at the history of communism in its entirety, including the complexities, geographical regions and how the tactics of a communist regime affected a population historically.
- The origins of communism, the tactics and tools of communist regimes, the development of communism in Europe, Asia and the Americas, both domestic and international, and responses to communism and as communism as it exists today.

History of Communism in Grades 9-12, continued

- Standard 1
 - SS.912.HC.1 Analyze the intellectual, political and economic origins of communism.
- Standard 2
 - SS.912.HC.2 Analyze the tactics and tools utilized by communist movements and states.
- Standard 3
 - SS.912.HC.3 Analyze how communist movements and nations, past and present, use propaganda to gain and maintain power.

History of Communism in Grades 9-12, continued

- Standard 4
 - SS.912.HC.4 Evaluate the rise and development of the Soviet Union and its subsequent decline and eventual collapse.
- Standard 5
 - SS.912.HC.5 Evaluate the rise and development of communism in East and Southeast Asia.
- Standard 6
 - SS.912.HC.6 Evaluate the rise and development of communism in Latin America, including the rise of communist states in South America.
- Standard 7
 - SS.912.HC.7 Analyze communism in the United States and the role of the Communist International.

History of Communism in Grades 9-12, continued

- Standard 8
 - SS.912.HC.8 Analyze resistance to communism and authoritarianism internationally and within individual states.
- Standard 9
 - SS.912.HC.9 Analyze how communist movements and tactics have evolved from the 20th to 21st centuries.
- Standard 10
 - SS.912.HC.10 Analyze the consequences of communism and communist movements on individuals and society.
- Standard 11
 - SS.912.HC.11 Analyze how Communism and Totalitarianism are antithetical to the American ideals of liberty, justice and equality.

Course Updates

New and Revised Courses

- Following the anticipated adoption of the aforementioned standards and benchmarks, several new and revised courses were created.
- The benchmarks created and revised by the civics and Asian American Pacific Islander workgroups will be incorporated at this time.
- Additional changes to courses will be outlined in the coming slides.

African American History

- These new and revised courses will incorporate the African American History Standards adopted by the Florida State Board of Education in 2023.
 - This includes the creation of a brand new one-credit African American History Honors course for high school.
- These standards are being incorporated into each grade, Kindergarten through 12.

History of Communism Courses

- Some Social Studies courses will have select History of Communism benchmarks integrated into them.
 - These select benchmarks are relevant and complementary to the content that already exists within the course.
- Two standalone courses that contain the entire strand of the History of Communism standards were also created to allow students to learn the full scope of horrors that communism has unleashed on the world.

Other Changes

- Resiliency Education benchmarks are being added to social studies courses in Grades K-12.
- The benchmarks included within the Psychology I and Psychology II courses have been changed.
- The aforementioned revised courses are going before the Florida State Board of Education for adoption on November 13, 2025.

Brain Break

Celebrating Our Country's History - 250 years of American Independence

- On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history of 250 years of American Independence.
- Florida will celebrate and commemorate America in the months leading up to July 4, 2026.
- Schools are encouraged to participate in these celebrations and foster patriotism in our students.
- <https://america250fl.com/>

America 250

- Write down an idea of a lesson or school-based celebration that exemplifies America's 250th birthday.
- Place your note on the America 250 parking lot chart.



Instructional Materials Adoption

Florida Instructional Materials Adoption Schedule 2025-2026 through 2030-2031

- Current Cycle:
 - 2025-2026: 6-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE), K-12 World Languages, Health and Physical Education, Performing and Visual Arts, 6-12 Additional English Language Arts
 - 2026-2027: K-12 Mathematics and Computer Science
- Future:
 - **2027-2028: K-12 Social Studies**
 - 2028-2029: K-12 Science
 - 2029-2030: K-12 English Language Arts
 - 2030-2031: CTE, World Languages, Health and Physical Education, Performing and Visual Arts

State Expert Reviewers

Rule 6A-7.0710, F.A.C., requires the state instructional materials reviewers to hold one or more of the following credentials:

- A baccalaureate degree or higher in the field or a related field;
- Certification in the field or a related field;
- Substantial experience in the field; or
- Recognition as an expert in the field. Such recognition may include, but is not limited to, awards received or publications related to the academic content area.
- If the state instructional materials reviewer is a Florida teacher and has a student growth model score as outlined in s. 1012.34(7)(a), F.S., that contains data from the most recent school year, then the classification of the score must be effective or highly effective as outlined in subsection 6A-5.0411(5), F.A.C.

Levels of Review

- State Expert Reviewers
 - Receive a \$330 stipend for each completed review.
- District Reviewers
 - Do not receive a stipend but have access to review the same materials state expert reviewers do.
- Public Input

FLIM Adoption Portal, Creating an Account

Florida Instructional Materials Adoption

Welcome to the Florida Instructional Materials Adoption Portal

If this is your first time visiting this site as an organization:

- 1.) Create your personal user account by clicking "Sign In or Create an Account"
- 2.) Verify your user account via e-mail & sign in to your account
- 3.) Click "Register a New Organization".
 - If the Organization is already registered, request to be added as an authorized user for that Organization. If you do not know who the existing authorized representative is for your company, you may e-mail IMSTAFF@fldoe.org to make your request.
- 4.) Submission deadlines for adoption cycles will open as they are made available – at that time you can submit all required bid information and materials. Adoption updates will be sent to registered organizations and posted on the [Instructional Materials](#) site.

If this is your first time visiting this site as a reviewer:

- 1.) Create your personal user account by clicking "Sign In or Create an Account"
- 2.) Verify your user account via e-mail & sign in to your account
- 3.) Click "Sign Up to be an Expert Reviewer"
 - New application opening dates to be announced – you can only access this area during the designated open dates
- 4.) Choose your reviewer type & complete all required sections of application:
 - **State Expert Reviewer** (must provide proof of expert content knowledge & submit application and required forms from IM site to the Office of Instructional Materials)
 - **District Expert Reviewer** (must submit affidavit form provided on IM site, opens after all expert reviews have been completed)
 - **Guest Reviewer** (no additional forms required, opens after all expert reviews have been completed)

**All forms and vendor registration with DMS are required for stipend payments to be made at the completion of the adoption process for State Expert Reviewers.*
**District Expert Reviews and Guest Reviews are for informational purposes and do not receive a stipend.*
- 5.) If you are registering as a state expert reviewer, make sure to submit the required physical forms to the Office of Instructional Materials to complete your application process. Your online application will not be complete until the physical forms have been received and processed. You can find the required forms and reviewer training on the [Instructional Materials](#) site.

+ Read more about the adoption process

Sign In or Create an Account

Organization Information

- View Open Cycles
- Sign In to your Account
- Register a New Organization
- How to Submit a Bid
- Instructional Materials Website

To access the organization dashboard, you will need to create an account and your existing organization authorized user (Organization administrator) to add you to the list of authorized users.

<https://www.flimadoption.org/>

Questions? Contact Us!

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Social Studies Resources

FDOE Required Instruction Website



Portraits in Patriotism Videos



CivicsLiteracy.org



FDOE Task Forces

- FDOE has continued to work closely with two task forces.
 - The Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force
 - The Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education



Upcoming Professional Learning

Upcoming Professional Learning

- The Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support is proud to announce our 2026 Summer Professional Learning Series.
- There will be 3 events total.
 - North, Central and South.
 - Locations and dates are TBA.
 - A memo will be sent out as more information is available.

Questions? Contact Us!

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