

History/Social Studies Presentation to the School Committee

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Department Goals

Goal 1:

Develop units of study and lessons that reflect due diligence to the new curriculum framework standards that reflect more diversity and the inclusion of those previously under-represented, encouraging students to become more active, global citizens.

Goal 2:

Focus on the Standards of History and Social Science Practice through the lens of disciplinary literacy.



Standards for History and Social Science Practice, Pre-K–12*16

1. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
2. Develop focused questions or problem statements and conduct inquiries.
3. Organize information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources.
4. Analyze the purpose and point of view of each source; distinguish opinion from fact.
5. Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and relevance of each source.
6. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.
7. Determine next steps and take informed action, as appropriate.

Snapshot of the Last 5 Years

2018 – 2019: Framework was adopted, and work began on grades 6 – 8

2019 – 2020: Curriculum work continued at MS and began on grades 5 and 4

2020 – 2021: Virtual and hybrid units were created due to the pandemic

2021 – 2022: Pilot work began in grades 7, 5 and 3

Current Year

- Slowed progress due to budget cut and job reduction
- Planning for roll-out of pilot curriculum

Currently at the Middle Schools

Grade 8

Using *iCivics* as our action civics project

Began Holocaust lessons focused on Civics

Grade 7

Completing DESE pilot at Bigelow

Professional Development for all teachers starting soon

Grade 6

United Nations Global Goals projects

Roll-out of the new units of study for next year

Currently at Elementary Schools

Grade 5

9 teachers in 5 Schools are completing the DESE Pilot
Beginning the planning for larger roll-out

Grade 3

21 teachers in 8 schools are completing our internal pilot
Beginning the planning for larger roll-out

Grades 4, 2, 1, and K

On hold due to impact bargaining

Looking Forward

Middle Schools:

Refine new curriculum and scope and sequence
Renew focus on literacy skills

Grades 5 & 3

Expand pilot curriculum across the district

Grades 4 & 2

Develop new curricular units

Grades 1 & K

Meet with teachers to review the frameworks

Looking Forward

All Grades

- Culturally Responsive Instruction
- Revisit and revise Civics goals
- Build better cross-curriculum opportunities
- Embed literacy skills
- Develop more student-centered inquiry projects