

# New York History

Historical News and Views From The Empire State

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## Comments Sought on NY Social Studies Curriculum

By Editorial Staff



The draft “New York State Common Core K-8 Social Studies Framework” has been issued and is available online [pdf]. The New York State Education Department is inviting comments until October 11, 2012.

The K-8 Framework was designed to integrate existing New York State Learning Standards and curricula into a single document with an emphasis on Key Ideas and Conceptual Understandings for each grade-level. This

differs from the 1996 New York State Learning Standards, where Content Understandings were provided at each grade level.

Common elements across all grades, derived from National Council for the Social Studies themes, Common Core Literacy Skills, and Social Studies Practices, are expected to unify the framework, strengthen the progression of skills across the K-8 continuum, and establish a consistent design approach that aligns with the demands of the Common Core Learning Standards.

This K-8 Framework document hopes to ensure:

- Students develop an understanding of concepts and key ideas, driven by an in-depth analysis of primary and secondary source documents and an examination of patterns of events in history.
- Students are assessed on their understanding of key ideas, as well as conceptual understandings.
- Students are instructed across the K-12 spectrum using a coherent set of themes, key ideas, and concepts.
- Districts and teachers have the ability to select the best pathways to teach and illustrate conceptual understandings and key ideas.

Public feedback on the draft is expected to be incorporated into final recommendations to the New York State Board of Regents. Once approved by the Board, the framework is expected to guide future development of P-12 curriculum modules for social studies, as described in New York State’s Race to the Top (RTTT) application (online at <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/>). The framework can also be used for the development of local school district social studies curricula, and for the development of future statewide social studies assessments. (For the 2012-13 school year, curriculum and assessments will be based on the existing standards and core curriculum guidance, available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/socst/>).

Comments may be submitted until 11:59 PM EDT on Thursday, October 11, 2012 via any of the following methods:

Online survey: <https://www.research.net/s/GCWFVLV>

E-mail: [ssframework@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:ssframework@mail.nysed.gov)

Phone: (518) 474-5922

Mail:

New York State Education Department  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
Attn.: Comment on Draft New York State Common Core K-8 Social Studies Framework  
89 Washington Avenue, Room 320 EB  
Albany, New York 12234

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