

## **OREGON'S 2024 SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS CHANGES FOR 2026–2027**

### **Dear Parents and Guardians,**

Through social science, students discover how our past connects to today and shapes our future. **Here's what you need to know about social science learning in our schools.**

### **Changes for 2026–2027**

The Oregon Social Science Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2024 for implementation in 2026–2027. These new standards came directly from the voice of Oregonians through public input, community advocacy and legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature calling for a more complete and inclusive telling of history. The standards include more voices and stories from Oregon and global communities, strengthening students' thinking skills and helping them become informed community members.



# What your student will learn

Social science includes four main areas:



## Civics

How communities and governments work



## Geography

How places and environments affect us



## Economics

How people use resources and make choices



## History

How past events shape our present and future

The standards also include **Essential Disciplinary Practices** to support students' skills like asking questions, analyzing different sources of information, understanding different viewpoints and engaging in their community. To learn more, check out this [Essential Disciplinary Practices information sheet](#).

For an overview of some of the topics your student will be exploring, find their grade level below.

## Want to learn more?

See the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE's) [FAQ](#) for answers to specific questions.

## Thank you!

# What will my student learn?

## Kindergarten–Grade 3 Social Science Standards



### Civics

Students discover how rules and laws work, why they're important and how people can participate in making their communities better through civic engagement.



### Geography

Students develop map-reading abilities and learn to create various types of maps while understanding their local geography and environment.



### Economics

Students learn about money, needs versus wants, saving and spending and how goods and services work in their community.



### History

Students explore the history of their community and state, including Indigenous peoples' histories, using timelines and historical sources.

**Example:** First-grade students talk with a partner about a time when they worked together in a group and then learn about the process of rule-making and leadership in their classroom.

## Grades 4 and 5 Social Science Standards



### Civics

Students learn how people can participate in government and create change through civic engagement, from early American democracy to Oregon's ballot initiatives.



### Geography

Students study how geography and natural resources have shaped settlement, economic development and environmental changes in both Oregon and early America.



### Economics

Students learn about trade, markets, supply and demand and how economic decisions affect communities, including early colonial trade and Oregon's economic development.



### History

Students explore how different cultural groups have shaped Oregon and America's development, examining various perspectives and experiences throughout history.

**Example:** Fourth graders compare testimonies from tribal and Oregon immigrant experiences to explore how concepts such as Manifest Destiny and race shaped the establishment and development of Oregon.

## Grades 6–8 Social Science Standards



### Civics

Students compare different forms of government, legal systems and citizen rights across civilizations and in the United States, focusing on the development of individual rights and civic responsibilities.



### Geography

Students analyze how physical geography and human characteristics influenced the movement of people, goods and ideas between civilizations while examining how cultural interactions and environmental factors shaped various societies and their development.



### Economics

Students learn practical money skills like budgeting and saving while also exploring how different societies throughout history have traded goods and managed their resources to meet people's needs.



### History

Students explore stories of different civilizations from around the world (from ancient times through early U.S. history), learning about their beliefs, achievements and how they interacted with each other through trade, conflict and cultural exchange.

**Example:** Students analyze speeches and letters from the civil rights movement to analyze the purpose, arguments and themes. They compare how different leaders advocated for the expansion of rights. They share their findings in a class discussion, deepening their understanding of historical perspectives.

## Grades 9–12 Social Science Standards



### Civics

Students examine foundations and structures of government while analyzing democratic principles, civic responsibilities and efforts to expand rights and representation for all.



### Geography

Students study how human activities impact the environment, examining resource use, sustainability, urbanization and climate change.



### Economics

Students examine how our economy works—from everyday decisions about prices and spending to issues like banking, trade and government policies that affect everyone's financial well-being.



### History

World history students analyze world events from 1750 to the present, including nationalism, industrialization, world wars and contemporary global issues. U.S. history students examine American history from 1865 to the present, analyzing major events, social movements, economic changes and their impacts on different groups of Americans.

**Example:** When studying 20th-century genocides, students analyze survivor testimonies and official documents. Then they research the work of the U.N. Genocide Convention and contemporary tribunals, evaluating the international community's evolving responses to mass atrocities and discussing nations' responsibilities to prevent future genocides.