## OREGON'S 2024 REVISED SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

- prioritize critical analysis, cultural awareness and engaging in a diverse democracy and an interconnected world
- include the contributions, perspectives and histories of individuals and groups previously underrepresented
- address new requirements including civics, ethnic studies, the Holocaust and other genocides

Oregon's Instructional Frameworks
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Introducing Oregon's 2024 Social Science Standards

# Oregon's Vision for Social Science

The Oregon State Board of Education adopted new social science standards in June 2024, which introduced significant changes including new content, disciplinary practices and formatting updates. Schools across Oregon must fully implement these K-12 standards no later than the 2026-2027 academic year.

## The 2024 Social Science Standards

Expanding the narrative from previous standards, the 2024 Social Science Standards include new content standards and guidance for instructional design and planning. The standards also provide Essential Disciplinary Practices to support students' skills, including chronological reasoning, critical thinking and seeking diverse viewpoints.

The 2024 Oregon Social Science Standards are guided by four content domains: civics, geography, economics and history. Each domain includes four concepts to provide additional clarification.

### Civics

- Political Institutions
- Identity, Roles, Responsibilities
- Democratic Principles
- Civic Engagement

### Geography

- Geographic Reasoning
- Migration and Movement
- Human Interaction and Interconnections
- Human Environmental Interaction

### Economics

- Earning, Saving, and Spending
- Micro and Macro Economics
- Incentives, Choice, and Consumer Behavior
- Specialization, Trade, Interdependence

### History

- Continuity and Change
- Conflict and Cooperation
- Cause and Effect
- Communities and Pluralism

## Oregon's Integrated Approach to the Social Sciences

Oregon's revised 2024 Social Science Standards include the integration of ethnic studies, Holocaust, genocide and Tribal History/Shared History concepts.

Historical Knowledge & Global Awareness

Critical Thinking & Inquiry-Driven Learning

Historical Thinking & Analysis

The integration of these concepts throughout the 2024 Oregon Social Science Standards reflects a commitment to providing students with a more complete and accurate understanding of historical and contemporary society. The standards weave diverse perspectives, experiences and contributions, helping students develop a deeper understanding of the individuals and groups that have shaped and continue to influence our world. Students examine the complexity and influences of social structures on historical events and modern society while building critical thinking skills and cultural awareness.

This approach emphasizes both content knowledge and Essential Disciplinary Practices. Oregon's Transformative Social and Emotional Learning Standards are included in the newly revised social studies standards. They help support a classroom climate conducive to the exploration and discussion of complex histories.

Transformative Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)

Authentic Narratives & Diverse Perspectives

Culturally Responsive & Inclusive Practices

The standards' integrated approach to social science supports students in becoming informed and engaged citizens in a pluralistic democracy. By examining multiple perspectives, analyzing examples of discrimination and resistance and understanding the cultural contributions of diverse groups, students develop the knowledge and analytical skills needed to understand the past, navigate the present and imagine their futures. This helps create more inclusive and equitable learning environments where all students can see their histories and identities reflected in the curriculum while developing empathy and understanding across cultural differences.

# New Legislative Requirements

The voice of Oregonians actively shaped social science standards to tell a more complete story of our state, nation and world. The 2024 Social Science Standards incorporate often underrepresented histories, contributions and perspectives. These changes, reflecting the will of Oregonians, include new requirements for civics education, ethnic studies and Holocaust and genocide studies.

## Ethnic Studies

In the Oregon standards, ethnic studies is instruction that includes the histories and perspectives of people from traditionally underrepresented groups: Native Americans and Americans of African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino, Jewish, or Middle Eastern descent. Ethnic studies also includes the histories and perspectives of women, people with disabilities, immigrants, refugees and individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

> Oregon House Bills 2845, 2023,and 2905 legislate that ethnic studies be integrated into instruction for the state's K-12 public school students.

## Holocaust

The Holocaust during World War II was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. Antisemitism, the hatred of or prejudice against Jews, was at the foundation of the Holocaust and a basic tenet of Nazi ideology.

> Oregon Senate Bill 664 legislates specific instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides for public school students.

## Genocide

The United Nations defines genocide as "the intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group." The acts that constitute genocide fall into the following five categories:

1. Killing members of the group
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions calculated to bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

> Oregon Senate Bill 664 legislates specific instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides for public school students.

## Tribal History/Shared History

K-12 lesson plans on Native American history were developed for use in Oregon public schools.

> Oregon Senate Bill 13 legislates the creation of K-12 Native American lesson plans for Oregon public schools and professional learning for educators.

## Connecting to the Standards

The 2024 Social Science Standards foster the following:

**Diverse Perspectives and Experiences**
Actively seek and include diverse perspectives to ensure students see themselves reflected in the social sciences.

**Civic Engagement**
Prepare students to become informed and engaged citizens in a diverse, democratic society.

**Critical Thinking**
Encourage students to ask questions, think critically, develop digital literacy and explore multiple perspectives.

**Global and Historical Context**
Provide opportunities for understanding the global context of historical and current events to help students appreciate the interconnectedness of today's world.

**Understand Inequality**
Help students understand how systems of power, discrimination and inequality shape individual and collective experiences.

**Educator Preparation**
Equip educators with the knowledge and skills to deliver effective, culturally responsive and inclusive social science instruction.

**Community Engagement**
Engage families and communities in social science learning.

**Equity and Justice**
Foster empathy to empower students to advocate for equity, challenge systemic biases and support a more just society.

**Learn more** Oregon's 2024 Social Science Standards Resources