

## Social Studies Education Highlights

### Passage of Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) Legislation

Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids, called for the development of rigorous standards for students. The Colorado Department of Education engaged in a year-long process to update its academic standards in English language proficiency and ten content areas: dance, drama and theater arts; mathematics; music; reading, writing and communicating; science; social studies; visual arts; and world languages.

### Local School District Adoption of Standards, Curriculum and Assessment

To meet the legislative requirements in CAP4K, districts adopted standards that meet or exceed state standards, are developing and adopting revised curriculum and assessments in all ten core disciplines. **This has resulted in innovative planning and collaboration in all ten disciplines across the state.**

### The State Social Studies Assessment – Colorado Measures of Academic Progress (CMAS)

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, the social studies assessment measuring the Colorado Academic Standards will be administered every three years. These assessments are developed collaboratively by CDE, the assessment contractor, Pearson, and Colorado educators.

**FRAMEWORKS:** The frameworks list the percent representation and number of score points for each of the reporting categories/standard areas that will appear on the summative assessments. They also specify the Evidence Outcomes that are eligible for inclusion on the state assessments. *Topics explicitly identified in the Social Studies standards are legitimate content for the assessment in addition to the standards' concept and skills.*

### Colorado Curriculum Sample Development Project

In the fall of 2012, 500+ educators from across the state created almost 700 unit overview samples K-12 within all 10 content areas. These samples (all 700+ of them) are currently available on our website—all authored by Colorado educators. Phase III began in the fall of 2013 to build out these units and include learning strategies, resource suggestions, differentiation options, and assessment ideas linked to helping all students master the Colorado Academic Standards.

During a three-day workshop delivered within a district, a team of educators produced one full instructional unit for one grade and content area in each participating district (e.g., one 1st grade science unit or one high school physical science unit, etc). This process reflected a model of educators working together to plan for the instruction of all students. These samples are created by teachers for teachers and are currently available on the website.

### What's Next?

- Phase IV of the District Sample Curriculum Project

**Colorado Department of Education**

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*Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use to  
change the world.*

- Nelson Mandela

### Helpful Links:

CDE Social Studies Education Webpage:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies>

Social Studies Standards:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies/statestandards>

Standards Implementation Support:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standardsimplementationsupport>

District Sample Curriculum Project Information:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/samplecurriculumproject>

Social Studies Curriculum Samples:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunits-socialstudies>

CDE Assessment Resource Bank:  
[www.coloradoplc.org/assessment](http://www.coloradoplc.org/assessment)

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