

# From Old to New: Mindshifts with Iowa's Social Studies Standards

There are several structural changes between Iowa's old social studies standards and the newly adopted social studies standards. This chart outlines those differences, as well as illustrates the mindshift associated with that change.

Old Iowa Core Social Studies Standards	New Iowa Core Social Studies Standards	Adoption of the New Standards and Impact on Instruction/Learning
K-12 content standards in addition to the 6-12 Literacy in History/Social Studies Standards for Reading and Writing	Combination of the following standards... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● K-12 social studies standards using both the inquiry and content standards</li> <li>● Continued Use of the 6-12 Literacy in History/Social Studies Standards for Reading and Writing</li> </ul>	<i>The combination of the three strands of standards will allow teachers to take social studies skills and content to a deeper and more relevant level of study for students, as well as ensure that students apply skills of inquiry and literacy that will prepare them to be college, career and civic life ready.</i>
Standards were grade banded K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12	Standards are now grade specific for K-8 and discipline-specific for 9-12 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Behavioral Sciences</li> <li>● Civics and Government</li> <li>● Economics</li> <li>● Financial Literacy</li> <li>● Geography</li> <li>● US History</li> <li>● World History</li> </ul>	<i>This shift in the standards will ensure that each grade level address specific standards associated with the skills content at that grade level.</i>
Standards were addressed as "Essential Concepts and/or Skills" with specific benchmarks listed for each essential concept.	Standards are now addressed by having K-12 anchor standards for each inquiry and disciplinary area.	<i>By including the K-12 anchor standards, this will allow school districts to create a guaranteed and viable curriculum that is vertically aligned from kindergarten through 12th grade.</i>
Standards focused on content discipline knowledge and skills within each specific discipline	Standards infuse multiple social studies disciplines within a given grade level. In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Iowa history is woven throughout the set of K-12 standards.</li> <li>● Financial and civic literacy are cross-posted in social studies and 21st century skills and are woven throughout the K-12 standards.</li> </ul>	<i>Teachers will now be able to ensure ALL students receive instruction on the following items...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Iowa History: The connections between Iowa's rich history and the world, from the past through today and into the future</i></li> <li>● <i>21st Century Skills: Skills of financial literacy and civic engagement that will prepare students to be active members in our local, national, and global societies</i></li> </ul>

Old Iowa Core Social Studies Standards	New Iowa Core Social Studies Standards	Adoption of the New Standards and Impact on Instruction/Learning
<p>Previous standards focused on major disciplines within social studies, outlining essential concepts/skills within those disciplines. Individual teachers were left to decide the processes and structure for deep learning and inquiry into the content</p>	<p>Inquiry standards are now present K-12. These standards, adapted from the C3 Framework developed by a consortium of states, national organizations, (including the National Council for Social Studies), ensure a pathway for concentrated, focused, and deep inquiry into the content covered within social studies, highlighting skills such as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developing and addressing compelling and supporting questions</li> <li>● Gathering and evaluating sources of information</li> <li>● Developing claims while using evidence</li> <li>● Communicating and critiquing conclusions</li> <li>● Taking informed action to develop ethical and reasonable solutions</li> </ul>	<p><i>With the infusion of the new inquiry standards, the new Iowa Core Social Studies standards will go beyond a basic working knowledge within each social studies discipline. Teachers and students will use these new standards to go through the process of inquiry while making relevant and meaningful connections to the world around them,. The inquiry standards will provide a framework for teachers to help students use their social studies content knowledge, and apply necessary skills to develop claims, evaluate evidence, and take informed action to address real-world issues and problems.</i></p>
<p>Standards were outlined in broad discipline areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Behavioral Sciences (combining both Psychology and Sociology)</li> <li>● History (Combining both United States and World History)</li> </ul>	<p>In grades 9-12, the standards have separated content standards for....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Behavioral science into two pathways: Psychology and Sociology. This gives districts the flexibility to choose whether to address one or both strands.</li> <li>● History. Content standards are separated into two separate into U.S. and world history.</li> </ul>	<p><i>By splitting these areas into more specific categories, it....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Allows districts the freedom to provide specific offerings that tailor to the school, and student needs</i></li> <li>● <i>Allows for more in-depth content study within each specific branch of the discipline</i></li> </ul>