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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

To: Superintendents and Charter School Leaders

From: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD., Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Date: December 16, 2021

Re: Social Studies Standards Revision

As you may all be aware, the department received 2,900 pages of feedback about the proposed social studies standards, as well as over five hours of testimony during the rule hearing. As a result, we have decided to take more time to revise the standards. Our current processes involve the following next steps:

1. Our Humanities bureau has culled themes from the incredible response and comment we received, paying particular attention to the profound work educators provided from several school districts. We have garnered several themes to address, the most important of which are:
 - a. The need for a balanced approach
 - b. The need to ensure developmental appropriateness
 - c. The need to ensure the standards do not read as assignments.
2. Educators convened to begin revision given the themes. I addressed all educators asking for purposeful engagement, respectful dialogue, and consideration of the three important themes above.
3. I will produce the last redline edit to ensure the expanse of feedback is addressed.
4. PED staff is helping to support revision and working on a document that will explain all changes and tie them to feedback that was received to ensure transparency to the public.

In summary, the process is taking longer than anticipated, but is healthy and in line with the approach I have promised to take in honoring the rule process. I anticipate moving to adopt a final set of standards in late February or early March. In the meantime, to help keep moving forward with next steps, we will need educators to support the instructional material review as soon as the standards revision is complete. Please reach out to Anthony.Burns@state.nm.us for more information on this process or Marit.Andrews@state.nm.us for any general questions. Thank you, and may you have a wonderful break.