

New Mexico Social Studies
Standards and Benchmarks
Update - 9-21-21

- Dozens of NM educators and community members are helping revise the state's social studies standards, which have not been updated in 12 years.
- Standards are outcomes -- what students are expected to know upon completing a grade level or course.
- The process is similar for every discipline; it involves volunteer committees of subject experts working together over many months.
- In January, through a competitive bidding process (RfP), PED hired American Institutes of Research to facilitate the actual writing of the standards by New Mexico K-12 social studies teachers who volunteered through an open call.
- Overall, 64 teachers were selected, representing 38 districts from all corners of New Mexico.
- The proposed standards then must go through the state's rule-making process, which includes public notice of the proposed rule change, a minimum 30 day (in this case, they've extended to 45 day) public comment period and public hearing.
- Feedback will then be considered and incorporated as needed, leading to a final rule that will be filed with the NM State Records Center and Archive.
- PED's goal is to release the new standards in early 2022 along with professional development modules that districts can use to begin training teachers to incorporate the new standards in the curriculum -- the day-to-day instruction students receive.
- Full implementation will follow in the 2022-2023 school year.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/literacy-humanities/social-studies/>

- This link will allow parents and community stakeholders to access information, timeline, dates and feedback opportunities.

- NM PED's response to inquiries:

“Critical Race Theory is one academic framework (there are others) used by higher education scholars to examine racism. It has no relevance at all to K-12 education. Unfortunately, some individuals with their own agendas have turned “CRT” into a buzz-word they are using to spread fear in the hope of preventing schools from teaching students historic facts about racism. That movement happens to be coinciding with PED’s long-overdue updating of social studies standards, but one has NOTHING to do with the other.”