

Individual Suggestions

Robert Koons

August 25, 2026

I support the Content Advisors' consensus in favor of the latest versions of the five high school courses. I have some specific individual suggestions to make.

1. Personal financial literacy

As the group indicated, there is simply too much content here. I would argue that fundamental economic concepts and principles should not be cut. Instead, we should focus on those standards that are most ephemeral, less likely to be relevant in 20 years.

Specifically, the following could be cut:

3C and G

4C

5A, C, G

6F, G

7A, D, G

9B, H

2. World Geography

Along with the majority of Content Advisors, I support the latest Kinsey-Young version of the course. My only suggestions are for further deletions to streamline it. I would recommend cutting the following TEKS:

1E. Regionalization. (duplicative)

2C. Too vague to be measurable. Duplicative

- 5C. Drop ‘responds to’ Not a function of the NWS
- 6. Globalization. Too vague, and 6B is beyond the scope of Geography
- 11B. Drop “United States”, Outside the region
- 15. Africa - political power. Outside the scope of Geography. Too much variability from country to country,
- 19B. Outside scope of Geography
- 30C. Outside scope of Geography

3. World History

Here there are several points that could be cut, and two restorations that I would recommend.

Cutting and streamlining:

- 3C. Drop “end of Athenian empire” (redundant)
- 4C. Drop “and arts” and “and to the United States”.
- 15B. Too vague. Duplicates 15A.

Restorations and replacements:

- 3F. Add: “and describe their influence on Western political theory and practice”
- 4C. Restore “republicanism.” The idea of a republic (central to our own Constitution) is derived from the Roman model.
- 4E. Restore “the structure of republican government.” The ideas of separate branches and checks and balances were invented by the Romans.
- 5B. Restore “debates of the first Nicene council” and drop “the Nicene creed.” The council was historically important in unifying Christianity for at least 700 years,
- 8D. Replace “the taking of female captives as harem slaves,” with “the taking of young boys as Janissaries (elite Moslem shock troops).” The Janissary phenomenon occurred on a much larger scale, involving hundreds of thousands of young boys,
- 9C. Restore “Roman and canon law” and “Gothic architecture.” These are two of the greatest and most enduring legacies of the Middle ages

10B. Restore “military developments, including gunpowder, the cannon, and disciplined infantry.” These permanently transformed the nature of warfare.

4. United States History

The latest Kinsey-Young version is excellent. I have only one suggested restoration. As things stand, there is virtually no mention of the role of religion in American history. I would restore a TEKS involving the transmission of religious pluralism from Great Britain to America as a cause of the Revolution. At the time, many Britons referred to the Revolution as “the Presbyterian rebellion,” and Edmund Burke saw the origins of the Revolution in the extreme Protestantism of many colonists, “the dissidence of the dissent,” as he put it. In addition, many students today have little understanding of the various branches of Christianity.

New 2E. Describe the variety of Christian denominations that were transmitted to the colonies from Great Britain, including Congregationalism, Presbyterianism, Quakerism, Anglicanism, and Catholicism.

5. United States Government

I support the Kinsey-Maynard version, but there are four deletions that I would recommend restoring.

The old 2B: colonial government. Add as “C” to new TEKS 2

3B. Revise: identify natural law and natural rights, including the influence of Blackstone’s Commentaries on the phrase “laws of nature and Nature’s God”

3C. Add: and describe the elements in the Declaration borrowed from the Magna Carta and the English Declaration of Rights

Restore the part of the old TEKS 12 on Tocqueville. American Political Culture. Add after TEKS 7.

8*. American Political Culture. The student is expected to describe American political culture, based on a close reading of Tocqueville's observations in *Democracy in America*, Volume 1, Part 3, chapters 4 and 10.

It is crucial to understand that American government arose organically from an established American culture, described brilliantly by Tocqueville in the 1830s.