

**SBOE Ad Hoc Committee on Social Studies**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

The SBOE Ad Hoc Committee on Social Studies convened on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in Room GH-100 of the William B. Travis building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

**Present:**

Aaron Kinsey, *Chair*; Marisa Perez-Diaz, *Member*; Julie Pickren, *Member*; and Audrey Young, *Member*

**Absent:**

Not applicable.

**Non-committee members present:**

Not applicable.

I. Committee Chair's Opening Remarks

- a. Chair Kinsey brought the meeting to order and welcomed Committee Members and TEA Staff. He began the meeting with a recap of the Committee's description, membership, goals, and committee charges.
- b. The Chair announced the subject of today's meeting will focus primarily on Committee Charge #3, *Framework Recommendation*. presentation.

II. Committee Presentation

- a. Chair Kinsey introduced TEA staff to begin the presentation.
- b. TEA staff introduced the Key Components of a Social Studies Framework including strands, course sequence, and key topics and primary sources.
- c. TEA staff emphasized the Committee's charge to provide a recommendation for revising or replacing the current framework addressing essential knowledge, grade appropriate sequencing from elementary through high school, civic dispositions and values, vertical alignment and coherence, as well as clarity and specificity.
- d. Members of the Committee reviewed guiding principles to consider when developing a new social studies framework that includes rigorous content, skills development and accessibility for both educators and students. To ensure success in student outcomes the Committee agreed to consider the following: best practices, engaged citizenship and academic rigor.
- e. TEA staff briefed members on the current TEKS strands (8) and their organization of content across courses. TEA staff also noted strands must be aligned with statute. Some members questioned whether 8 strands are too many. Additional discussion among members included consideration for new strand titles and defining each strand individually.

- f. Members discussed Course Sequences within a grade level and across grades. Consideration for chronological order was discussed in greater detail. One Member asked the question of whether there are peer reviewed research available in this subject area to understand how students learn. When discussing Key Topics, TEA Staff referenced statutory examples and offered recommendations. Discussion among Members noted that current strands are not in chronological order. One Member surfaced a concern with student gaps in learning across grades – 4th and 5th grades are survey courses, 6th and 7th grades are a deeper dive, 8th grade covers too much content, and high school has specific content (allowing students to accomplish social studies credits that are considered equivalent). Another Member shared their belief that the integration of world history from a perspective of U.S. history. Some discussion between TEA Staff and Members included refreshing assessment reviews to ensure direct alignment with TEKS. Further discussion regarding the complexity of 8th grade content and assessments versus 11th grade was shared by one Member. TEA Staff indicated that 8th grade content contains more critical thinking, while 11th grade represents more recall of facts and figures. One Member raised a concern that students are not studying history post-Civil War after 8th grade.

### III. Committee Discussion

- a. Chair Kinsey said the Committee would not make a final decision but instead consider options to provide recommendations in a report to the board. He indicated that this Committee needs to produce a Framework option.
- b. Members requested research on other states' strands and core sequencing.

### IV. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Monday, June 23rd, 2025, in Austin, Texas at the William B. Travis Building, Ground Floor, Room H-100.
- b. Chair Kinsey adjourned the meeting.