



**Public Review of  
Statewide Civics Education Course Standards**  
Webinar Transcript  
June 10, 2020

The webinar may be accessed at  
<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/4488433369485397772>.

Slide 1

Good afternoon, and welcome to our webinar during which we will be sharing information about the public review of the statewide civics education course standards. My name is Michael DiPierro, and I am a Director in the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support at the Florida Department of Education. One of the primary responsibilities of our office is to provide quality services and resources in collaboration with our partners in education; this includes support for the Civics and Government Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

I'm joined today by Tim Girard, the Social Studies Specialist for the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support.

Slide 2 Welcome and Housekeeping Information

This webinar is being recorded and it will be posted to the civics review webpage for anyone who wishes to view it at a later date. The URL for the review webpage will be included at the end of this presentation. For those viewing the webinar live today, you may input questions into the webinar chat feature at any time, and Tim or I will answer those, if possible, at the end of the webinar. Answers to all questions we receive will be posted along with today's presentation, the webinar recording, and the transcript of this webinar. Questions may also be submitted via email to Tim and me at any time during the review window, which opened on June 5<sup>th</sup> and will remain open through August 5<sup>th</sup>. Email addresses will also be included at the end of this presentation.

Slide 3 Purpose and Agenda

First, I will be sharing a brief summary of House Bill 807, which is the legislation that requires these reviews to take place. Next, an overview of the civics education course standards will be provided. This webinar will conclude with how to participate in the public review.

Slide 4 Florida's Commitment to Civic Literacy

This section speaks to Florida's commitment to civic literacy.

Slide 5 Florida's Commitment to Civic Literacy

Florida is committed to preparing students to become civically engaged, knowledgeable adults who make positive contributions to their communities. The State Board of Education adopted the Civic Literacy Reading List with the B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts. At the

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postsecondary level, students must demonstrate competency in civic literacy. During the 2019-20 school year, the department encouraged districts to participate in the Pilot Civic Literacy Exam.

#### Slide 6 Florida's Commitment to Civic Literacy

As displayed on the screen, Florida's required instruction statute includes components related to civic literacy.

#### Slide 7 Florida's Commitment to Civic Literacy

Executive Order 19-32 included the directive to identify opportunities to equip high school graduates with sufficient knowledge of American civics.

#### Slide 8 Florida's Commitment to Civic Literacy

During the 2019 legislative session, the Florida Legislature amended statute to require, among other things, that the Commissioner work with specified organizations to review all civics instructional materials and *Specifications* by December 31, 2019, and statewide civics course standards by December 31, 2020. The civics instructional materials and *Specifications* review took place in 2019 per the mandate.

#### Slide 9 Civics Review: Stakeholders

This statute states that consultants may include, but are not limited to: the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship; the Bill of Rights Institute; Hillsdale College; the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; iCivics; the Constitutional Sources Project; educators; school administrators; postsecondary education representatives; elected officials; business and industry leaders; parents; and the public.

#### Slide 10 Civics Education Course Standards Overview

This section presents information on the civics education course standards.

#### Slide 11 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

The Civics and Government Next Generation Sunshine State Standards directly affect course descriptions, instruction, state adopted instructional materials, and the Middle Grades End-of-Course Assessment.

#### Slide 12 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

The Civics and Government Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are coded by individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 8 and by the 9-12 grade cluster for grades 9 through 12.

#### Slide 13 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

The State Board of Education approved the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies, including the Civics and Government Standards, in December 2008.

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#### Slide 14 General Requirements for Middle Grades Promotion

The Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act (CS/HB 105) was unanimously passed during the 2010 Florida Legislative Session, and then modified in 2013. In the legislation, changes were made to Section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, that required three middle grades or higher courses in social studies, and that one of these courses must be at least a one-semester civics education course.

Beginning with the 2013–2014 academic year, students enrolled in relevant courses were required to take the Civics EOC Assessment, and the results of the EOC were required to comprise 30% of the final course grade.

#### Slide 15 Benchmark Coding System

Each benchmark in the Civics and Government Standards is labeled with a system of numbers and letters.

- The two letters in the first position of the code identify the Subject Area, with SS used for social studies.
- The second position represents the Grade Level or Grade Band to which the benchmark belongs. For example, K represents kindergarten, the number 7 indicates seventh grade, and 912 is for grades 9 through 12.
- The letter in the third position represents the Strand to which the benchmark belongs, C represents Civics and Government.
- The number in the fourth position represents the Standard.
- The number in the last position of the code identifies the specific Benchmark under the Standard. This review provides you the opportunity to comment on each benchmark for K-12 Civics and Government Standards.

#### Slide 16 Participating in the Public Review

This section presents information about participating in the public review.

#### Slide 17 EdCredible® Portal - Public Review

The civics review platform can be accessed at <https://www.floridacivicsreview.org/>. The preferred browsers are Google Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Microsoft Edge.

On the right-hand side of the screen there is a link to contact support. Use this function if you have any difficulty registering an account. There is also a video tutorial that goes through the steps necessary to register an account with EdCredible and to review the Civics and Government Standards for the Florida Department of Education. While this section provides an overview of the review platform, please watch the tutorial for more detailed information.

#### Slide 18 Register or Sign In

If you already have an account with EdCredible, you do not need to create a new account. Please just click Sign In.

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If you do not have an account, click Register. On the registration screen, you will need to first enter an email address. If you enter a personal email address, you will also need to enter a school district name. If you are a school district employee and register with your school district email, you will be automatically identified with that specific district. Next, create a password and confirm your password. Enter your first name and last name. Create a screen name and then select a role. If you've used your personal email address you will only be able to select the role of Business/Industry Leader, Community Member, Elected Official, Parent or Postsecondary Representative.

#### Slide 19 Confirm Registration

After clicking submit on your registration, you will receive an email to authenticate your information. This email will come from no-reply@www.edcredibleapp.com. If the email does not appear in your inbox, please check your junk folder. If the link in the email is not active, please copy and paste the link into your web browser.

#### Slide 20 Select Civics Education

Once signed in, to the review standards, click START under Civics Education.

#### Slide 21 Begin your Public Review

On the civics education evaluation page, you can see the status of your evaluations. To view the available evaluations, click on the year "2020". Next, click on PUBLIC REVIEW of Civics and Government K-12 Standards Review. This will display the reviews which are organized into three grade bands of K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Next, select a grade band to display the evaluation. Click START on the right-hand side of the screen to open the evaluation form.

#### Slide 22 Review Form Walkthrough

When the evaluation opens, the title of the evaluation is displayed in the upper left-hand corner. There is also a print icon in the upper right-hand corner of the evaluation.

#### Slide 23 Review Form Walkthrough

Just above the standards, there is a brief introduction and description of the answer choices. As you can see, the first three choices of Eliminate Standard, Revise Standard, and Move Standard will require a comment. If you select No Change Needed, you will not need to enter a comment. Because the benchmarks are grouped together into grade bands, there is a reminder below the response choice descriptions that the grade level for the benchmark being reviewed follows the two letters SS in the benchmark ID.

The Florida Department of Education included an Overall Comment field after the last question on each evaluation. The Overall Comment field can be used for you to provide additional feedback about the standards that may not have been recorded at the standard level.

#### Slide 24 Review Form Walkthrough

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During review, results will auto-save, but it is always best practice to save your review as you go. The Save button is in the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

When you click Save, a Successfully Saved message is displayed. You then have the option to either click Done or Continue Evaluation. Clicking Done, returns reviewers to the Civics Education evaluation screen. When you click Continue Evaluation, you remain in the evaluation.

#### Slide 25 Review Form Walkthrough

When you are ready to submit the evaluation, click the Submit button in the lower right-hand corner. When you click Submit, you may receive a validation message notifying you that you are missing a required comment for specific standards by question number. In this case, go to the question that is missing a comment and fill in the comment field. Then click Submit.

When clicking Submit you may also receive a validation message that you did not select an answer choice for some standards. In this case, if you proceed with submitting your review, those standards without answer choices will be recorded as, No Change Needed. If you are ready to submit, click yes.

If your review submitted successfully, you will get a Submit Successful message. Click OK to be returned to the list of evaluations for Civics.

#### Slide 26 Manage your Public Review

Now that you are back on the main Civics Education evaluation screen, use the dropdowns to see changes to the status of your evaluations. If the status of your evaluations has not changed, go to your web browser and refresh your page.

When you open the Public Review evaluation dropdown, you see that the status of the evaluation changed from Not Started to Submitted. Evaluations that are saved, but not submitted have the status indicator of In Progress.

Select any submitted evaluation to view your submitted response. You can also unsubmit a response and edit it. Do this by clicking the red Unsubmit button. Responses can only be unsubmitted before the close of the evaluation window.

#### Slide 27 Thank You

As with the Instructional Materials and Test Item Specifications review, stakeholders may provide feedback on the EdCredible® platform.

As I mentioned earlier, the feedback window opened Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and will remain open through Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

After the public review period, comments will be compiled for the Commissioner's review in order for him to make any recommendations for improvements to the Civics and Government Standards by December 31, 2020, as required in HB 807.

Updates about the Civics Standards Review including the recording, presentation, and transcript of this webinar, will be posted at <http://www.fldoe.org/civicsreview>.

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#### Slide 28 Questions

Now we will open the webinar to questions and answer those that we've received during the presentation. As a reminder, you may use the webinar chat feature available during the live presentation, or email questions to Michael DiPierro or Tim Girard. Tim or I will respond to chat questions here as appropriate. Answers to these questions, and answers to other questions that need to first be researched further will be posted to the Civics Review page, along with the presentation you are viewing, the webinar recording, and the transcript of this webinar.

The following question and answer section of the webinar is not transcribed verbatim.

Question: Can you repeat the dates for this review?

- Answer: June 5, 2020 to August 5, 2020.

Question: Do you have to complete all at once or can you return to the site?

- Answer: You may save and continue the review until August 5, 2020.

Question: About what proportion of the standards are Florida specific?

- Answer: Florida specific content is woven into the civics and government standards. Please refer to [www.CPALMS.org](http://www.CPALMS.org) or the review portal to view all K-12 civics and government standards.

Question: To what extent do you include African and African American history/contributions into these course standards, K-12?

- Answer: African and African American history content are primarily included in the American History and World History standards. Please refer to [www.CPALMS.org](http://www.CPALMS.org) to view these standards.

Question: As a new teacher, where would I go to see the review?

- Answer: Please visit <https://www.floridacivicsreview.org/> to review the standards.

Question: Can you go over your email one more time so that I can have it personally?

- Answer: Michael DiPierro may be contact at [Michael.DiPierro@fldoe.org](mailto:Michael.DiPierro@fldoe.org).

Question: The B.E.S.T. Standards included content materials as integrated in the standards. Will the civics standards include content?

- Answer: The instructional materials adoption process is statute driven. Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials/> for more information. I am unaware of any civics materials being considered at this time.

Question: If the standards change through this review process, won't the test item specs need to be revised to match?

- Answer: The Test Item Specifications are based on the grade 7 civics and government standards. Our office will work closely with the Office of Assessment to ensure continued alignment between the standards and specifications.

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Question: Governor DeSantis announced that high school students would be required to take the same test required for immigrants to become citizens. Is this mandated by Executive Order?

- Answer: Executive Order 19-32 tasks the department with identifying opportunities to equip high school graduates with sufficient knowledge of America's civics, particularly the principles reflected in the United States Constitution, so as to be capable of discharging the responsibilities associated with American citizenship. On December 10, 2019, Governor DeSantis directed Commissioner Corcoran to implement a new civic literacy requirement for high school students. This will begin on a voluntary basis with a pilot civic literacy exam in Spring 2020

Question: Will there still be an End-of-Course Assessment for 7th grade?

- Answer: There is a Civics End-of-Course Assessment based on the grade 7 civics and government standards. The review of the Test Item Specifications took place in 2019.

Question: You stated there is a middle grade civics assessment. Is there a required civics assessment for grades 9-12?

- Answer: No.

Question: Does this review include 7th grade though we already reviewed those benchmarks and standards?

- Answer: The Test Item Specifications and instructional materials were reviewed in 2019. This review is of the K-12 civics and government standards.

Question: How does this differ from the review conducted in October?

- Answer: The Test Item Specifications and instructional materials were reviewed in 2019. This review is of the K-12 civics and government standards.

Question: Will the FDOE have a document showing teachers how to unpack standards once the review has concluded, if any standards are to be changed?

- Answer: Should there be any changes to the standards, the department will provide professional learning as appropriate.

Question: To what courses will these standards be attached?

- Answer: Please refer to [www.CPALMS.org](http://www.CPALMS.org). When you select a standard, CPALMS provides an option to view related courses.

Question: Do you have a common press release for the public that can be shared?

- Answer: The Opening of the K-12 Civics and Government Standards Review memorandum may be viewed at: <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8886/dps-2020-48.pdf>.

Question: As a charter school teacher, when I registered with my school's email address it would not allow me to register as a teacher. Can this be fixed or at least addressed?

- Answer: Please use the Contact Support option on <https://www.floridacivicsreview.org/>.