



Civics Education Course Standards Review
Required by House Bill 807 (2019)

December 31, 2020

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Overview

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has been a national leader in education reform for decades, and it continually seeks bold and innovative ways to hold students to the highest standards in the nation while providing students with a world-class education. The underlying intent of House Bill (HB) 807 (2019) is to drastically improve the quality of Florida's civics education throughout its K-12 education system. The bill called for a review of statewide civics education course standards to ensure Florida students have the highest quality civics education courses throughout the nation.

An online review system through EdCredible® was established to specifically review civics and government standards. This system utilized the same rubric originally employed for the highly successful Executive Order 19-32 English Language Arts and Mathematics standards review in 2019. The K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 standards review forms enabled reviewers to thoroughly evaluate and comment on each standard, as well as the option to provide an overall comment for each grade cluster of standards. The EdCredible® review system opened for reviews on June 5, 2020, and closed on August 5, 2020.

Data from the EdCredible® online review system were collected and analyzed after the review closed on August 5, 2020. The data included quantitative and qualitative ratings for each individual benchmark and overall comments for the K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 review forms.

For each K-12 benchmark, stakeholders had the option to select no change needed, revise standard, move standard or eliminate standard. Stakeholders were permitted to leave a comment to support each answer choice. A comment was required if revise standard, move standard or eliminate standard was selected by the reviewer.

Student performance standards in Florida establish the core content of the curricula to be taught and specify the core content knowledge and skills that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire. The Commissioner shall determine whether revisions are necessary and shall propose such revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption. The Specifications and Criteria document for the 2022-2023 instructional materials adoption cycle for Social Studies, including civics, are anticipated for public release in November 2021. We anticipate that State Board of Education action to adopt revisions to standards will be complete by summer 2021. Approval of new course descriptions, to include revised standards, is currently expected to be made by fall 2021. Rule [6A-1.09441](#), F.A.C., permits the Commissioner of Education to approve additional courses and course descriptions; such additional course listings will be made available as approved.

Themes

During a review of the feedback, the following themes emerged as priorities for civics education.

- Theme 1:** Students should study primary source documents to understand the philosophical underpinnings of the American Republic and the root cause of American exceptionalism.
- Theme 2:** Students should compare the success of the United States and the success or failure of other nations' governing philosophies to evaluate their past, present and likely future effects.
- Theme 3:** Students should have a sense of civic pride and participate regularly in all levels of government.
- Theme 4:** Students should reflect upon United States civic history so they understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, including the process of advocating properly with government officials.

Next Steps

The Department will convene a workgroup of Florida experts to propose revised standards that reflect the themes identified in this report.

Appendix

Stakeholder Groups

HB 807 Named Stakeholders

The Bill of Rights Institute, the Constitutional Sources Project, the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Hillsdale College and iCivics were named stakeholder groups in HB 807. On June 5, 2020, an invitation to participate in the review was emailed to these six organizations. The Bill of Rights Institute, the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship and Hillsdale College participated in the review.

Table 1. Submission Status by Named Stakeholder Group in HB 807

Review Entity	Submission Status		
	K-5	6-8	9-12
Bill of Rights Institute	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constitutional Sources Project	No	No	No
Florida Joint Center for Citizenship	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	No	No	No
Hillsdale College	Yes	Yes	Yes
iCivics	No	No	No

Expert Groups

Per Rule [6A-1.09401](#), F.A.C., *Student Performance Standards*, the standards review process shall begin with convening an expert group to review the standards and make recommendations to the Commissioner for their review and revision. The HB 807 standards review expert group included representatives from Florida school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

Expert Group: Florida School Districts

On April 10, 2020, in a memo to superintendents the FDOE invited every Florida school district to submit one expert group nominee for grades K-5 and one expert group nominee for grades 6-12. Representatives from 48 of 73 school districts participated in the expert group review.

Table 2.1 Expert Group: Submission Status by Florida School District

Review Entity	Submission Status		
	K-5	6-8	9-12
Alachua County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baker County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bay County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brevard County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Calhoun County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charlotte County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes

Citrus County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clay County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Collier County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Columbia County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Duval County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Escambia County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
FAU Lab School	No	Yes	Yes
FL Virtual School	Yes	Yes	Yes
FSU Lab School	Yes	No	No
Gadsden County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Hendry County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hernando County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Highlands County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hillsborough County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indian River County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Jackson County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jefferson County Schools	Yes	No	No
Lafayette County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Lake County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lee County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leon County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Levy County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Manatee County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Marion County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Martin County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Miami-Dade County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monroe County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Orange County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Osceola County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Palm Beach County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Pasco County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pinellas County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Polk County Schools	No	Yes	No
Sarasota County Schools	Yes	No	Yes
Seminole County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Johns County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Lucie County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sumter County Schools	Yes	Yes	No
Union County Schools	No	Yes	Yes
Volusia County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Walton County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington County Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes

Expert Group: The Florida College System

The FDOE Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support collaborated with the Florida College System to recruit expert group members from FCS institutions. Of the 28 member colleges, 12 had a representative participate in the expert group review.

Table 2.2 Expert Group: Submission Status by the Florida College System

Review Entity	Submission Status		
	K-5	6-8	9-12
Broward College	Yes	Yes	Yes
College of Central Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida SouthWestern State College	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida State College at Jacksonville	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hillsborough Community College	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northwest Florida State College	Yes	Yes	Yes
Palm Beach State College	Yes	Yes	Yes
Polk State College	Yes	Yes	Yes
Santa Fe College	Yes	Yes	Yes
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tallahassee Community College	Yes	Yes	Yes
The College of the Florida Keys	Yes	Yes	Yes

Specialty Stakeholders

Specialty Stakeholders were selected to participate in this review based on the specialized role each has in Florida’s K-12 system of public education. On June 5, 2020, an invitation to participate in the review as a specialty stakeholder was emailed to the leadership of the following entities: FDOE Test Development Center, Florida Association of Social Studies Supervisors, Florida Council for the Social Studies, Heartland Education Consortium, North East Florida Educational Consortium, Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, Academy/Somerset/Doral (Charter) and Building Hope/Florida Charter Support Unit. The FDOE Test Development Center and the Florida Association of Social Studies Supervisors submitted a review.

Table 4. Submission Status by Specialty Stakeholder Group

Review Entity	Submission Status		
	K-5	6-8	9-12
FDOE Test Development Center	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida Association of Social Studies Supervisors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida Council for the Social Studies	No	No	No
Heartland Educational Consortium	No	No	No
North East Florida Educational Consortium	No	No	No

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium	No	No	No
Charter School Representative: Academy/Somerset/Doral	No	No	No
Charter School Representative: Building Hope/Florida Charter Support Unit	No	No	No

Public Reviews

HB 807 directed the FDOE to solicit feedback from educators, school administrators, postsecondary education representatives, elected officials, business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. Public reviews were encouraged through targeted email communications, promotion via social media, posting information on various pertinent FDOE webpages, and a memo to superintendents. There were 376 public reviewers that submitted feedback on <https://www.floridacivicsreview.org/>.

Table 5. Number of Public Reviewers

Review Identified Role	K-12 Reviewers
Business and Industry Leaders	8
Community Member	75
District Administrator or Curriculum Director/ Specialist	11
Educators	201
Elected Officials	0
English Language Learner Specialist	1
FDOE User	1
Parents	57
Postsecondary Education Representatives	15
School Administrator	7
Total Public Reviewers	376

Two webinars were held to inform stakeholders of procedures and their responsibilities. The public review webinar was held on June 10, 2020, with 238 registered and 145 attending participants. The teacher expert review webinar was held on June 11, 2020, with 80 registered and 75 attending participants. Both webinars were followed by a question and answer segment. To provide webinar access to those who could not attend at the designated time, the public review webinar was posted on the FDOE webpage and the teacher expert review webinar was emailed to all teacher experts. The FDOE Civics Review webpage may be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/civicsreview/>.