

## Social Studies Education Highlights

### Passage of Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) Legislation

Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids, called for the development of rigorous standards for students. The Colorado Department of Education engaged in a year-long process to update its academic standards in English language proficiency and ten content areas: dance, drama and theater arts; mathematics; music; reading, writing and communicating; science; social studies; visual arts; and world languages.

### Local School District Adoption of Standards, Curriculum and Assessment

To meet the legislative requirements in CAP4K, districts adopted standards that meet or exceed state standards, are developing and adopting revised curriculum and assessments in all ten core disciplines. **This has resulted in innovative planning and collaboration in all ten disciplines across the state.**

### New State Social Studies Assessment – Colorado Measures of Academic Progress (CMAS)

A new social studies assessment measuring the Colorado Academic Standards will be administered online in Colorado for the first time in the spring of 2014. These assessments are being developed collaboratively by CDE, the assessment contractor, Pearson, and Colorado educators.

**PRACTICE TESTING ENVIRONMENTS**, also referred to as ePATs (electronic Practice Assessment Tools), that help to familiarize students with the testing environment, can be accessed at <http://www.pearsonaccess.com>. Districts are strongly encouraged to give students time to practice the tests before actual testing. The practice environment will help students navigate through the testing environment and use the embedded supports.

**FRAMEWORKS:** The frameworks list the percent representation and number of score points for each of the reporting categories/standard areas that will appear on the summative assessments. They also specify the Evidence Outcomes that are eligible for inclusion on the state assessments. *Topics explicitly identified in the Social Studies standards are legitimate content for the assessment in addition to the standards' concept and skills.*

### Phase III of the Curriculum Sample Development Project

Phase III of Colorado's District Sample Curriculum Project. This fall, the content specialists of the SIS team will travel across the state to work with educators in district settings to build instructional units based on the existing curriculum unit overview samples created during Phase I of the District Sample Curriculum Project. As with the workshops that produced the overview samples, the SIS team and I are diligently pursuing educator-authors to represent the diversity of districts across Colorado.

### What's Next?

- Standards Implementation Begins in the 2013-2014 School Year
- Spring 2014 – First administration of the new social studies assessment in grades 4 and 7
- Fall 2014 – First administration of the new social studies assessment in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Ongoing Training and Resources for Standards Implementation, Educator Effectiveness and Assessment

*Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use to  
change the world.*

- Nelson Mandela

### Helpful Links:

CDE Social Studies Education Webpage:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies>

Social Studies Standards:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies/statestandards>

Standards Implementation Support:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standardsimplementationsupport>

District Sample Curriculum Project  
Information:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/samplecurriculumproject>

Social Studies Curriculum Samples:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/Curriculum/SocialStudies.asp>

CDE Assessment Resource Bank:  
[www.coloradopl.org/assessment](http://www.coloradopl.org/assessment)

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