

History, Culture, Social Contributions and Civil Government in Education



Background on the HB 19-1192 Commission

In 2019, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 19-1192 to add minority groups into the history and civics lessons in public schools. The legislation created a commission to be appointed by the governor, the commissioner of education and the president of the State Historical Society.

The commission was charged with writing a report with recommendations for the State Board of Education and CDE on how to add details about minority populations into the history and civics sections of the Colorado Academic Standards for social studies. This included but was not limited to American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and the contributions and persecutions of religious minorities. The commission published its report in June 2021 to help inform the social studies revision process which was underway at that time.

Recommended revisions to standards

The Colorado Academic Standards review and revision process included the presentation of multiple draft revisions to the State Board of Education over the span of a year. The first presentation occurred in November 2021 when the social studies committee chairs presented initial recommendations to the state board. In a three-month public comment period following the November 2021 presentation many comments urged the committee to remove references of LGBTQ+ individuals in the social studies standards for early grades. As a result, the committee suggested changes to the initial draft in preparation for its final recommendations.

In April 2022, state board members reviewed the committee's draft recommendations and the public feedback in reaction to the draft recommendations. At the June 2022 state board meeting, the social studies standards review committee presented its final recommendations, which included removing references to some minority groups, including LGBTQ+, for standards below the fourth grade. Examples of some of those recommended changes can be seen on page two of this fact sheet.

Next Steps

In March 2022, the board revised its timeline for review and revision of the social studies standards to allow for full consideration of public feedback and thorough consideration for the implementation of each area required by legislation to be included in the social studies standards. H.B. 19-1192 is one of these areas and the board is anticipated to review the committee's final recommendations in November 2022. Amendments to these standards will be included in final recommendations presented to the board by the end of the year when it votes on the social studies standards.

A Note About LGBTQ+ References

The purpose of H.B. 19-1192 was to ensure that the history, culture and social contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals were recognized in Colorado's history and civics standards. This does not mean there is an obligation to teach comprehensive human sexuality education, which is optional under state law (C.R.S. 22-1-128).

Relevant statutes that govern comprehensive health education are listed on the CDE website.

A Note About Discrimination

Federal and state law prohibit discrimination in public schools. Section 22-32-109 C.R.S. requires local boards of education adopt written policies specifying that schools in their districts are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education services.

For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

Examples of recommended revisions

Social Studies Standard Adopted June 2018	Proposed Social Studies Standard November 2021	Proposed Social Studies Standard June 2022
<p>First Grade History Identify similarities and differences between themselves and others.</p>	<p>First Grade History Identify similarities and differences between themselves and others. For example: Race, ethnicity, gender identity, religion, ability, and family makeup.</p>	<p>First Grade History Identify the unique characteristics of oneself as well as the similarities and differences between themselves and others. For example: eye color, ability, individuality, family composition, etc.</p>
<p>Fourth Grade Civics Discuss how various individuals and groups influence the way an issue affecting the state is viewed and resolved.</p>	<p>Fourth Grade Civics Discuss how various individuals and groups influence the way an issue affecting the state is viewed and resolved, including African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ, and religious minorities.</p>	<p>Fourth Grade Civics Discuss how various individuals and groups influence the way an issue affecting the state is viewed and resolved. Including but not limited to: the contributions of African Americans, Latinos, Japanese Americans, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ, and religious groups.</p>
<p>Eighth Grade Civics Describe instances in which major political, social, economic, or cultural changes occurred that affected the definition of citizenship or expanded or restricted rights of citizens.</p>	<p>Eighth Grade Civics Describe instances in which major political, social, economic, or cultural changes occurred, and the reasons for the changes, and how they impacted women, Indigenous Peoples, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and people living in annexed territories.</p>	<p>Eighth Grade Civics Describe major political and/or social changes that affected the definition of citizenship, expanded or restricted the rights of citizens, and how those changes impacted women, Indigenous Peoples, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and people living in annexed territories.</p>
<p>High School History Gather and analyze historical information to address questions from a range of primary and secondary sources containing a variety of perspectives.</p>	<p>High School History Gather and analyze historical information to address questions from a range of primary and secondary sources containing a variety of perspectives, including perspectives of historically underrepresented groups.</p>	<p>High School History Gather and analyze historical information to address questions from a range of primary and secondary sources containing a variety of perspectives. For example: perspectives of historically underrepresented groups.</p>

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

H.B. 19-1192 Inclusion of American Minorities in Teaching Civil Government: leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1192

1192 Commission membership and meeting summaries: www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/1192commission

Colorado Academic Standards Review and Revision Process: www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casreviewgroups

News and announcements from the State Board of Education: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeboard

Policies and Guidelines for Colorado Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards and Instruction: www.cde.state.co.us/cohealth/policiesandguidelines-health

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html