



## *Considerations for Social Studies Education*

*"In this increasingly complex and interconnected world, students who are equipped with skills of authentic inquiry and who know geography, civics, economics, and history can move forward with the confidence that they are prepared to engage with the world."*

*- Superintendent Chris Reykdal*

### **Social Emotional Support:**

It is imperative that districts and educators put the health, wellness, and physical and emotional safety of students first. Below are some resources for K–12 students:

- [Washington SEL Implementation Brief: Focus on Culturally Responsive Practices](#)
- [Social and Emotional Learning Activities for Families and Educators](#)

### **Relevance:**

Social Studies provides a unique opportunity for students to explore their world through the lenses of Civics, Geography, Economics, and History.

- Academic vocabulary, [literacy](#), [oracy](#), and critical thinking skills are essential to a [well-rounded education](#) under ESSA and an essential part of Social Studies instruction.
- Social Studies is part of [basic education](#) and a requirement for [high school graduation](#).

### **Integration of Social Studies Standards:**

- Emphasize the [inquiry process](#) over *products* (asking compelling questions, evidence-based practices, etc.).
- Consider how multiple [standards](#) can be addressed in each lesson and integrated with other content areas, especially K–5.

## Instructional Practices:

- Rigorous, standards-based learning in and through the [Social Studies](#) provides unparalleled opportunities for growth and achievement.
- Social Studies promotes [literacy](#), [project-based learning](#), interdisciplinary studies, and opportunities for meaningful engagement with families and the community.

## Assessment:

- Monitor student growth and development regularly.
- Key on formative assessment.
- Develop student capacity for self-reflection.

## Special Considerations for Social Studies:

- Social Studies incorporates all disciplines including ELA, Science, Mathematics, and the Arts.
- Social Studies inquiry can be used to connect content areas and provide cross-content learning opportunities in a remote or blended K–12 learning environment.
- [Marzano](#) has identified that more than 50% of academic vocabulary in elementary grades is rooted in Social Studies concepts and requires content knowledge to support student literacy.

## Resources:

- [OSPI Social Studies Learning Standards](#)
- [NCSS National Standards for Social Studies](#)
- [College, Career, and Civic Life Inquiries](#)