

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Social Studies Instructional Resource Adoption

Board Presentation & Recommendation for Adoption

Presented by

Dr. Sean R. Tartt | Dr. Rose Prejean-Harris | Dr. Victoria Anderson

Division of Teaching & Learning | July 13, 2026



SOCIAL STUDIES



RIGOROUS

Challenging minds.
Building knowledge.



INQUIRY-BASED

Asking questions.
Seeking understanding.



LITERACY-RICH

Reading, writing, and communicating
across all content.

RESOURCE ADOPTION PROCESS



Instructional Resource Adoption Process

01

Committee Formation

- Recruit certified teachers via District-wide NewsFlash.
- Establish diverse teacher review panels (experience, ethnicity, content expertise).
- Train selected teachers on rubric, District-wide academic goals, and Resource Adoption protocols.

02

Rubric Vetting

- Establish foundational alignment to State and National content standards.
- Evaluate physical and digital resources via secured review links.
- Identify top two contenders based on completed rubrics and teacher feedback.

03

Intensive Vendor Audits

- Host 60-minute deep-dive vendor presentations and Q&A sessions.
- Verify technical compliance with DCSD IT security specifications.
- Evaluate materials for evidence-based research and differentiated support.

04

Community Feedback

- Advertise the public/ community review via media outlets.
- Provide access to digital resources and establish physical weekend/evening viewing hours.
- Collect and synthesize public comments and feedback survey data.

05

Final Reporting & Approval

- Integrate committee findings and public data into a unified report.
- Submit selection dossier to the Chief Academic Officer.
- Present the final recommendation to Superintendent and Board for adoption.

Instructional Resource Adoption

Alignment with Georgia School Districts



Adoption Criterion	DeKalb County Schools	Fulton County Schools	Atlanta Public Schools	Richmond County Schools	Griffin-Spalding Schools
Standards Integration	★	★	★	★	★
Two-Tiered Filtering	★	★	★	★	★
Public Transparency	★	★	★	★	★
IT & Technical Vetting	★	★	★	★	★
Differentiated Support	★	★	★	★	★
Board Approval Pipeline	★	★	★	★	★

INSTRUCTIONAL ALIGNMENT

*Connecting Standards, Instruction,
and Resources for Student Success*





Inspire

Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)

The Georgia Standards of Excellence establish the knowledge, skills, and understandings students are expected to learn at each grade level and course.

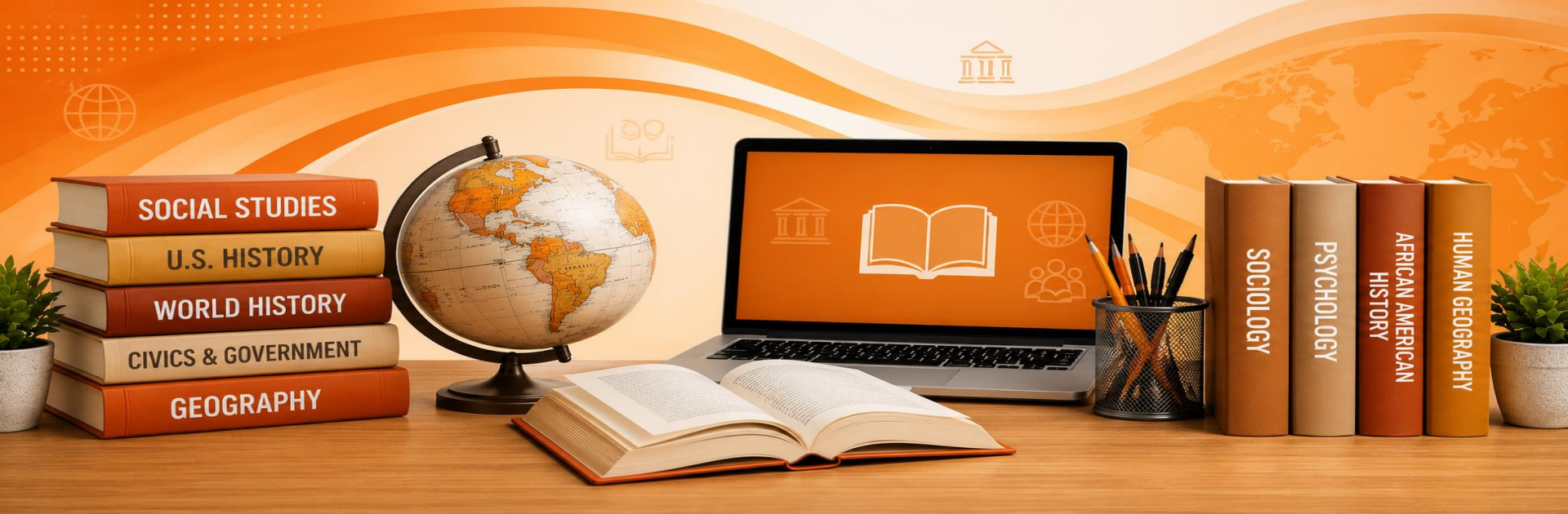
Teacher Notes

Instructional guidance developed by the Georgia Department of Education that provides context, content support, suggested approaches, and additional resources ***to help teachers effectively teach the Georgia Standards of Excellence.***



District Curriculum

A standards-aligned instructional framework developed by the district that organizes learning expectations, instructional resources, assessments, and learning experiences to support consistent, high-quality instruction for all students.



Resource (e.g., textbooks, consumables, etc.)

Provides content, context, and perspectives that support student understanding and reinforce standards-based instruction.

WORKING TOGETHER

Connected Resources. • Aligned Instruction. • Student Success.



1. GA STATE STANDARDS & TEACHER NOTES

Georgia Standards of Excellence and GaDOE Teacher Notes provide the expectations, content, and instructional guidance for what students should know and be able to do.



2. DISTRICT CURRICULUM

District-developed curriculum and instructional resources organize learning, provide engaging lessons, and ensure coherence and consistency across classrooms.



3. TEXTBOOK RESOURCE

Textbooks and instructional resources provide important content, depth, and multiple perspectives to support student understanding of historical events and issues.

These connected resources work in tandem—
not in isolation—to provide a complete, balanced, and standards-aligned
learning experience for every student.

STUDENT OUTCOMES



**CRITICAL
THINKING**



**MULTIPLE
PERSPECTIVES**



**INFORMED
UNDERSTANDING**



**CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**



**COLLEGE, CAREER
& LIFE READINESS**



Standards guide. Resources support. Teachers bring it all together.

Together, we prepare students to learn, lead, and make a difference.

TEACHING SENSITIVE TOPICS

With Care. With Purpose. With Our Students in Mind.



Our goal is to empower students with knowledge, empathy, and the skills to think critically and engage thoughtfully.



Preparing informed, engaged, and compassionate citizens.

K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Training Pipeline



01

Pacing & GSE Alignment

Establish yearly pacing and map instructional timelines directly to state expectations. Prevent pacing drift across classrooms.



02

Content Depth & Boundaries

Utilize resources to define core historical boundaries. Ground sensitive topics objectively within state-vetted historical context.



03

GaDOE Instructional Framework

Structure inquiry-driven lessons built around the four key dimensions required by the state Instructional Framework:

1. Engage with Questioning

2. Introducing Disciplinary Tools

3. Evaluating Sources & Evidence

4. Communicating & Creating



04

SWIRL Literacy Integration

Incorporate deliberate checks where students consistently process and demonstrate knowledge:

S W I R L

- Speaking
- Writing
- Interacting/Illustrating
- Reading
- Listening



05

PLC Synthesis & Planning

Collaborative grade-level teams co-create daily plans by systematically synthesizing all core materials into actionable practices:

- ✓ District CAAGs & GSE
- ✓ GaDOE Teacher Notes
- ✓ 2025 Instructional Framework
- ✓ SWIRL Skills
- ✓ Textbook & Resources

CLOSING SUMMARY

Key Takeaways for the Board

1 **A Rigorous, Policy-Aligned Process**

Five stages, Committee Formation through Final Reporting, fully aligned to Board Policies DJE, DJEG, and IFA.

2 **Standards, Not a Single Source, Guide Instruction**

The Georgia Standards of Excellence, GaDOE Teacher Notes, and District Curriculum work together, not in isolation, to guide every classroom.

3 **No Resource Tells the Full Story Alone**

We pair the adopted resource with teacher capacity-building to check bias, using district-created units that ensure multiple perspectives are taught alongside it.

4 **A Training Pipeline Carries This Into Every Classroom**

Pacing, content boundaries, the GaDOE Instructional Framework, SWIRL literacy, and PLC planning turn the resource into consistent daily practice, K-12.

Adheres to Board Policies: DJE, DJEG, & IFA

Thank You

Questions & Discussion

DeKalb County School District | Division of Teaching & Learning