

Want more information about the content changes the SBOE is trying to make? Expert Resource here on Substack: The Social Studies Advocate - [HERE for K-5](#), [HERE for 6-8](#), and [recap of April SBOE Meeting HERE](#)

Texas Centricism

- Eliminates world geography, world history and US history as stand alone year-long subjects and reorients every year K-8 to be Texas focused, comparing nearly every event to how it relates to Texas and increasing Texas-focused material to roughly 45%.
- Forced and ahistorical connections of everything to Texas leaves students not understanding context or consequences of either historical event (eg: 3rd Grade TEKS requiring comparison of Greek Battle of Thermopylae to Battle of the Alamo or comparison of Egyptian pharaohs to US Limited government).
- Lack of global perspectives puts students at risk of being able to compete in a globally competitive job market and keep Texas flourishing as the 8th highest GDP in the world.

Fact Heavy with little focus on Skills or Critical Thinking

- Heavy rote memorization and fact based learning crowds out focus on critical thinking
- Impacts on students with learning disabilities. Fact heavy memorization is not best suited to neurodivergent learners.
- Instructional feasibility issues and teacher workload due to unrealistic volume of content
- Geography education is severely weakened by focusing on historical geography instead of the contemporary world, as is the current standard.
- No time for foundational skills such as map reading, data visualization, analyzing multiple perspectives, and evaluating sources.

Skewed and inaccurate content that minimizes role of racial minorities, women, and non-Christian religions

- Reduces and de-emphasizes non-white studies (African American, Mexican American, Native Americans)
- Minimizing the role of the United States in slavery, including specific sub-topic mentioning the US was the smallest contributor to global slavery at that time.
- 3rd grade focus on Ancient Israel using Exodus as a historical source
- Several claims presented lack scholarly support, like the idea that medieval chivalry influenced the Texas cowboy code or that cathedral schools directly led to American colleges.
- The second grade recommendations jump from ancient Clovis culture to ancient Hebrews to Pueblo peoples to Greeks and Romans without providing any framework to help students understand how these societies relate to each other or when they existed.
- Women don't appear in the proposed standards for The Revolutionary Era, Reconstruction, Gilded Age, and Progressive Era sections at all until the suffrage movement, making them invisible for the first 200 years of the course.

Developmental Appropriateness Concerns

- Kindergarten is tasked with understanding abstract concepts like "constitutional republic" or "taxation without representation" without understanding what money is and how basic trade works.
- 1st graders asked to identify Spain on a map and understand abstract global concepts before they can identify their own home on a map.
- Fifth graders are expected to tackle dense political philosophy from Locke, Montesquieu, and Smith all at once, even though this content is more appropriate for middle school students, and they do not have the background to understand these concepts.
- Typical social studies curriculum involves vertical scaffolding of information and concepts through developmental stages for children, gaining in complexity, depth, and maturity as students move up in grade levels. These standards visit concepts one time and never again, regardless of developmental appropriateness. (Eg: Students only learn of George Washington once in 4th grade and not again.)

Link to [original Subtopics](#) as well as [response to Working Group B by content advisors](#).

Links to reporting on the SBOE and Social Studies TEKS Revision

- [Democrats seek to pause Texas' social studies revamp over \\$70K grant from conservative think tank](#)
- [Texas State Board of Education advisers signal push to the right in social studies overhaul](#)
- [Social Studies Advocate's Substack - Billionaire-funded Christian Nationalism Curriculum: American Birthright](#)
- [American Historical Association: Texas Social Studies TEKS Review Field Guide](#)
- [Grandparents for Public Education May Newsletter outlining areas of concern around the SS TEKS overhaul](#)