

School District U-46

Middle School Social Studies Curriculum Resource Proposal 2025-2026

Board of Education Presentation

Presenter

Brian Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Jacob VandeMoortel, Curriculum Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies
and World Languages



May 19, 2025

Purpose

This proposal seeks the adoption and funding of new curricular resources and associated curriculum frameworks, rubrics, assessments, and professional learning for a new middle school 6th-8th Social Studies course sequence featuring 6th Grade Global Studies, 7th Grade Civic and Economic Studies, and 8th Grade American Studies.

Alignment to Strategic Plan

U46 STRATEGIC PLAN AUG 2022 Revised



Student Success

It is our responsibility to ensure all students are engaged in rigorous learning, receive quality core instruction, and can develop the skills they need for better life chances and opportunities. By helping students develop self and peer agency, they will develop a growth mindset as they learn to expand their perspectives.

Effective & Engaged Staff

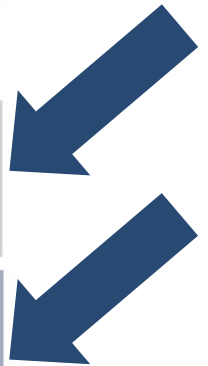
We will value, develop, recruit, and retain a forward-thinking, highly qualified, and diverse workforce. We will establish a robust process for measuring employee engagement to identify and proactively address employee engagement issues.

Culture, Climate & Community

We will engage in meaningful and effective relationships with our students, families and the greater community and will ensure that our schools are welcoming and inviting places for all of our U-46 students and families. We will become a choice district that inspires families to join us.

Excellence, Efficiency & Accountability

We will advocate for and utilize systems and resources that promote fiscal equity, operational excellence, efficiency and accountability. It is our moral imperative to change until all our systems measurably work for all students.



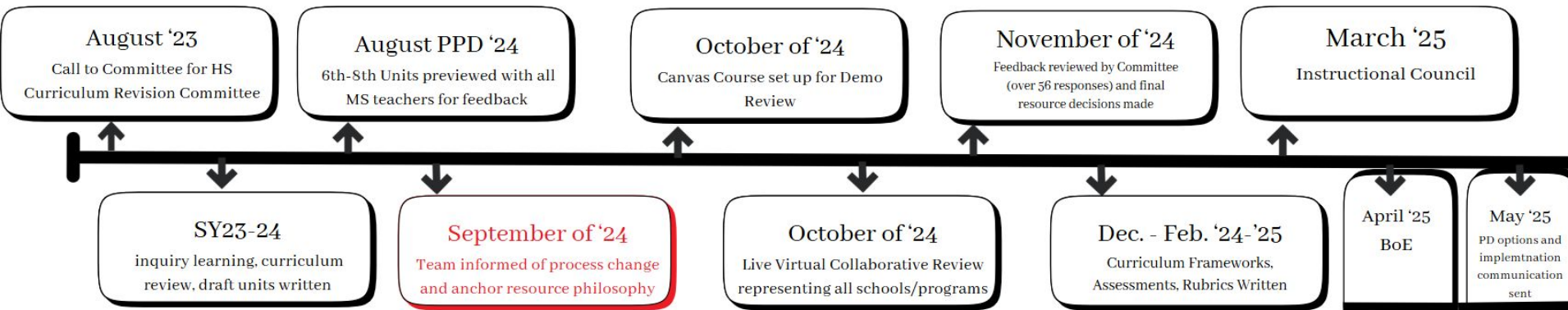
Rationale

- Equity leaders like Zaretta Hammond and Dr. Lacey Robinson have championed the belief that systemic equity begins with high-quality, grade level, engaging and affirming, meaningful curriculum.
- 6th Grade transition to middle school created opportunity for full review.
- Online licenses expiring.
- New units reflect alignment to newly selected resources.
- Economics includes personal financial literacy.
- Providing rigorous common assessments ensures equity across all sites and programs.

Committee Members

Member	Role	School	Department(s)/Specialty
Cherly Elko	Teacher	Tefft Middle School	Special Education
Kristine Elliott	Teacher	Kenyon Woods Middle School	General Education and Gifted
Dr. Ramiro Juarez	Teacher	Tefft Middle School	Dual Language, General Education, and Gifted
Michelle Rossi	Teacher	Kimball Middle School	Dual Language and Special Education
Jacob VandeMoortel	Curriculum Coordinator	District Wide	Social Studies

Process Timeline



Available for the 2025-2026 school year.

Feedback collected throughout the 2025-2026 school year, revisions made as needed.

Full implementation mandatory beginning the 2026-2027 school year.

Standards

- Illinois State Board of Education 6-8 Learning Standards for Social Science
- Illinois State Board of Education Instructional Mandates

Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science



College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Program Overview

Course

Changes

6th Grade Global Studies

- Inquiry-Focused
- Integration of all standards groups
- Connecting ancient world to the present
- Rigorous forced choice and text based writing common assessments

7th Grade Civic and Economic Studies

- New Resource for the 2025-2026 school year
- New Focus on Civics, Economics, and Financial Literacy
- Inquiry-Focused
- Student Centered
- Rigorous forced choice and text based writing common assessments

8th Grade American Studies

- New Resource for the 2025-2026 school year
- Inquiry-Focused
- Integration of all standards groups
- Connecting American history and geography to current issues
- Rigorous forced choice and text based writing common assessments

Recommended Resources

Course	Resource
6 th Grade Global Studies	<i>History Alive! The Ancient World</i> (2023) from TCI
7 th Grade Civic and Economic Studies	<i>Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions</i> (2023) from TCI Next Gen Personal Finance's free online Middle School Course
8 th Grade American Studies	<i>History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism</i> (2023) from TCI



Implementation Plan

School Year	
SY 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of curriculum and resources• Voluntary summer professional learning offerings
SY 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text and online resources available• In-person, synchronous, and asynchronous training and professional learning on resources, assessments, and the inquiry model instruction• Utilize common assessment data to revise curriculum and assessments• Utilize resource data usage to ensure effective implementation
SY 2026-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full implementation of curriculum and resources• In-person, synchronous, and asynchronous training and professional learning on resources, assessments, and inquiry model instruction• Utilize common assessment data to inform professional learning• Utilize resource data usage to ensure effective implementation
SY 2027-2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring use of curriculum and resources• Data-informed professional learning• Utilize common assessment data to monitor program effectiveness and alignment with state measures• Utilize resource data usage to ensure effective implementation

Professional Learning

Required	Available	Additional Supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Training• Common Assessments and Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asynchronous Resource Driven training• Live virtual Resource training quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canvas Blueprints with resource synchronization• SS Course Team Data sharing• PLC Support/Course Team support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommended for the 2025-2026 school year• Required for the 2026-2027 school year• Onboarding as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource specific in first 2 years• Data-driven and Social Studies led during remainder of adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available to all

Cost

Item	# of Years of Access	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Next Gen Personal Finance •binding of student-facing materials	n/a	2,435 bound copies	fixed	\$24,680.00
TCI (class sets, teacher editions, licenses, support materials, S&H) • <i>History Alive! (6th)</i> • <i>Civics Alive!</i> • <i>History Alive! (8th)</i>	6	12,656 student users over 6-year period	varies	\$1,418,191.50
Professional Learning 5 hours per teacher		109 teachers	\$32.75	\$17,848.75
TOTAL				\$1,460,720.25

Cost

Estimated Annual Cost of Consumables:
\$24,680.00

Estimated Per-Pupil Cost:
\$96.79

Evaluation of Change

The Office of Social Studies and World Language will review common assessment data to make shifts in professional learning, support resource utilization, and align with instructional clarity.

We will use formative and summative assessments to collect data on:

- o Alignment with standardized achievement scores
- o Resource usage
- o Common planning time support

