

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford**

Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

450 Columbus Blvd

Plaza North, Hearing Room J

Hartford, CT

**Minutes**

**(Approved on: September 19, 2024)**

**I. Call to Order**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, Committee Chairperson Erik Clemons called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Committee

Members Present: Erik M. Clemons  
Erin D. Benham

Committee

Member Absent: Allan B. Taylor  
Martha Paluch Prou  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres (Ex-Officio)

Staff Present:

Irene Parisi  
Leslie Navarrete  
Stephen Armstrong

Guests Present: N/A

**II. Approval of Minutes**

There wasn't a quorum; therefore, Committee Chairperson Erick Clemons tabled the approval of the meeting minutes for the May 15,2023, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee meeting.

Vote: In Favor: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Opposed: 0  
Absent: 0

**III. Model Curricula Update: Update on K-8 Social Studies Model Curricula**

Chairperson Erik Clemons recognized the meeting's agenda item and yielded the floor to Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE.

Ms. Parisi provided an overview of the work to date of the K-8 social studies model curricula. She shared with the Committee a draft of a set of units from the K-2 social studies model curricula for members to get a sense of the progress work. She added that the layout of K-2 social studies model curricula serves as a model for the social studies curricula. She brought to mind that by January 1, 2024, the K-8 model curricula need to be released, per legislation, and the CSDE is on track. Ms. Parisi went on to provide an overview of the process that the CSDE is deploying to develop the units with Paul Castiglione, Durational Project Manager, leading this initiative. Mr. Castiglione – digitizes the curricula to GoOpenCT, Connecticut’s digital library of model curricula, and there are several reviews after the curricula are digitalized. She stated that there are specialized teams that help inform the work of the social studies model curricula – separate grade-level teacher teams; a design team, consisting of administrators and curriculum experts that serve as an advisory team; and a curricula writer team, which ensures there is a common structure for all curricula deployment.

The work for the K-8 social studies model curricula is guided by the June Special Session Public Act 21-2 (Public Act 21-2), which called for K-8 model curricula addressing specific subject matter, including but not limited to Native American studies, Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, Puerto Rican and Latino studies and LGBTQ and other sexual orientations and gender identities studies. Additionally, Ms. Parisi shared that the CSDE is working diligently with external experts and leveraging SERC’s assistance to develop comprehensive and equitable K-8 social studies model curricula, per legislation. External experts are helping with the development of the curricula for LGBTQ and other sexual orientations and gender identity studies.

Ms. Parisi went on to share a sample of the design principles and explained the color coding of the units to the Committee. She also informed the Committee that when developing technical supports for districts, the CSDE took into consideration the variation of instruction in social studies among districts and their strong interest for more guidance in social studies standards and curricula. As a result, work is underway for diversity and inclusion, including multilingual and English learners, resources that can be embedded in the social studies units. SERC is helping with this initiative. Furthermore, given the K-8 social studies standards and curricula are being written with districts in mind, the CSDE is further supporting districts by embedding social studies concepts into the upcoming ELA curricula and other studies and offering districts professional development and professional development on-demand opportunities. The CSDE is also working closely with social studies teacher groups to support the continuous improvement of social studies instruction in districts. Currently, there are discussions on working with higher education institutions to keep the teacher pipeline on track with teaching and learning shifts, reported Ms. Parisi.

Ms. Parisi introduced Stephen Armstrong, Education Consultant, to provide an overview of the timeline development of K-8 social studies model curricula, and she discussed with the Committee the gradual release of new model curricula to not overburden districts and the wide accessibility of up-to-date curricula to districts, teachers, and the public through GoOpenCT.

Chairperson Erik Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete