



Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Assessment, Standards and Curriculum

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To: BOCES District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Charter School Leaders

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Subject: New York State K-12 Social Studies Framework Implementation, Course Requirements and Assessment Changes

This memorandum provides information on the roadmap for a comprehensive approach to Social Studies, discussed at the September 2014 meeting of the Board of Regents, which followed the Board's approval of the New York State K-12 Social Studies Framework. In January 2015, the Board approved pathways to graduation and various changes to the social studies requirements. For further information see: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2015Meetings/January/RegentsPathways.pdf>

### **Implementation Schedule**

It is important for teachers and administrators to be familiar with the Social Studies standards and practices that are identified in the New York State K-12 Social Studies Framework. We strongly recommend that districts begin now to align existing curriculum in K-12 social studies with the Frameworks and implement instruction in not tested grade levels (K-8 and 12) no later than the start of the 2015-16 school year. The Frameworks can be found at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-framework>.

The new Global History and Geography II<sup>1</sup> Regents Exam will be first available in June 2018; the new US History Regents Exam will be first available in June 2019. To prepare students to meet these high school assessment requirements in social studies, students should be instructed in the content and the social studies practices found in the new framework for the Global History and Geography I (grade 9) course beginning in September 2016. Beginning in September 2017, instruction based on the new framework for that cohort should continue to the Global History and Geography II (grade 10) course, and subsequent instruction based on the content of the new framework in the United States History and Government course (grade 11) should commence in September 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> See below for a summary of the differences between Global History and Geography I and II and the social studies Regents Exam test development timeline.

The content, skills, and social studies practices in the New York State K-12 Social Studies Framework must be built across grades K-12 for students to be successful on the social studies assessments required for a diploma. Instruction in ELA modules that incorporate social studies topics does not replace instruction in social studies, particularly in the development of social studies practices. All teachers of social studies in all grades should review the social studies practices, as well as the common core literacy skills for their courses, and incorporate them, along with content, into their instruction.

The following chart will help guide districts and outline the timeline necessary to plan for and implement instruction aligned to the new Framework in order to prepare students for the new social studies Regents Exams to be first available in June 2018.

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
K-8	Curriculum Development and Professional Development				
		Implement Instruction			
Grade 9 Global I	Curriculum Development and Professional Development				
			Implement Instruction		
Grade 10 Global II	Curriculum Development and Professional Development				
				Implement Instruction	
				<b>NEW Global Regents Exam June 2018</b>	
Grade 11 US History & Government	Curriculum Development and Professional Development				
					Implement Instruction
					<b>NEW US History Regents Exam June 2019</b>
Grade 12 Economics Participation in Gov't	Curriculum Development and Professional Development				
		Implement Instruction			

## **Assessment Development and Diploma Requirements**

According to the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework adopted in April 2014, Global History and Geography will be split into two distinct units of study. Global History and Geography I (Grade 9) begins with the Paleolithic Era and continues to a period of Global Interactions from approximately 1400 to 1750. Global History and Geography II (Grade 10) begins with a snapshot of the world at 1750, incorporates the Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution, and continues to the present. A new Regents Exam measuring student knowledge and skills based on the Global History and Geography II (Grade 10) course is under development.

New test items will be piloted in spring 2016 and field tested in 2017. The first administration of the new Regents Examination in Global History and Geography II will follow in June 2018. Subsequently, a new Regents Examination in United States History and Government aligned to the Framework will be administered in June 2019. These changes will impact students beginning grade 9 in 2016. Information about the design of the test and the item types will be released by summer 2016 for the Regents Examination in Global History and Geography II and by summer 2017 for the new Regents Examination in United States History and Government.

At the January 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents, the Board approved regulatory changes pertaining to social studies, as well as multiple pathways to graduation. Beginning in September 2016, students will continue to be required to earn four units of credit in social studies. However, they now will be required to earn two credits in Global History and Geography, in addition to the long-standing requirements for one credit in US History and one half credit in each Economics and Participation in Government or the equivalent.

Effective January 28, 2015, the Commissioner's Regulation regarding multiple pathways to graduation requires a student to pass the ELA Regents Exam, one math Regents Exam, one science Regents Exam, one social studies Regents Exam and one other assessment to fulfill the requirements for a high school diploma. Students may earn a high school diploma by passing either the Global History and Geography Regents OR the United States History and Government Regents AND one other approved pathway assessment. The pathway assessment option is available to students eligible to graduate in June 2015 and beyond, however the new two credits Global History and Geography requirement will first apply to those students who enter grade 9 in September 2016 or thereafter.

A field memo providing guidance about the multiple pathways will be forthcoming. For further information regarding Multiple Pathways see:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2015Meetings/January/RegentsPathways.pdf>

## **Resources**

The New York State K-12 Social Studies Field Guide provides an explanation of the structure of the NYS Framework and the instructional shifts supporting the implementation of the NYS Framework. It is located at: <https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-field-guide>. Local districts should make use of this information in developing of local curricula.

The New York State K-12 Social Studies Resource Toolkit Project is a collaborative partnership with Binghamton University, New York State teachers, and State and national experts in the Social Studies. Building upon the ideas contained in the Field Guide, the purpose and function of the Toolkit Project is to provide more specific guidance to districts and teachers as they design curricula, instruction, and classroom-based assessments. Instructional resources, including inquiry-based materials, are currently being developed, reviewed, and piloted by New York State teachers. These instructional resources and templates for every course will be aligned to the New York State Framework and incorporate elements of the C3 Framework. Some of these materials will be made available beginning in March 2015 and the rest by fall 2015.

The Toolkit Project will provide professional development support in partnership with the Staff/Curriculum Development Network (S/CDN) and the New York State Council for the Social Studies Conference. Department staff will also provide professional development to various districts, BOCES regions, and organizations, including local Social Studies councils.

Please contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction by email at [emscurric@nysed.gov](mailto:emscurric@nysed.gov) or by phone at 518-474-5922 for questions concerning the NYS Social Studies Framework and diploma requirements. Please contact the Office of State Assessment by email at [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or by phone at 518-474-5900 for questions concerning the new Regents Exams.