



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner
Date: January 15, 2016
Subject: Civic Learning and Engagement – Update and Draft Timeline and Budget for Revision of the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework

In December 2015, I updated the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on projects currently underway to support civic learning and engagement. This memorandum and the attached documents provide the current status of those projects, including a proposed timeline and budget estimate for the revision of the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework.

Revised Definition of College and Career Readiness

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and the Department of Higher Education have collaborated to create a revised definition of college and career readiness that includes readiness for civic life. Discussion and a possible vote to adopt the revised definition will take place at the joint meeting of our Board and Board of Higher Education on January 26, 2016.

Civic Learning and Engagement Task Force

ESE is conducting outreach to potential members for the newly formed Task Force that will focus on drafting recommendations for a preliminary strategic plan to promote civic learning. The group will include representatives from the Working Group on Civic Learning, Global Education Advisory Council, Community Service Learning Advisory Council, and State Student Advisory Council, as well as professional organizations and social studies educators. The Task Force will meet during the current school year and next year to develop recommendations for a strategic plan to promote civic learning by early 2017.

Literacy Conference, Integrating History, Social Studies, and Civics

ESE is planning a statewide conference to take place in April/May 2016 which will afford the opportunity to host sessions devoted to civic learning and engagement as well as connections to literacy development.

Revision of the 2003 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework

ESE has developed a timeline and proposed budget for the review and revision of the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework as well as a proposed timeline to re-establish the statewide assessment in history and social science, as follows:

Timeline - Overview of the review process

Phase 1:	Gain input from K-12, higher education, and others through panel meetings and other outreach to support development and presentation of recommendations for revising the framework to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board).
Phase 2:	Revision of state learning standards based on the recommendations approved by the Board, including continued panel meetings and review of draft standards by K-12 and educators from higher education.
Phase 3:	Complete draft MA HSS Standards and seek public input, both from the field and external organizations with expertise in history-social science education. Board votes on adoption of revised standards.
Phase 4:	Dissemination of standards; district curriculum adjustment and implementation.
Phase 5:	Development of state assessment – this phase will begin during previous phases.
Phase 6:	Board discussion and action on incorporating HSS assessment as part of Competency Determination

Anticipated Timeline

Action	Timeline
Recruit review panelists; solicit input/ initial public survey	May/June 2016
Phase 1: Review panel meetings (develop broad recommendations for changes; direction setting)	October 2016 – January 2017
Phase 1: Regional focus groups on overview of vision and design features	February – April 2017
Phase 1: Progress report presented to the Board	April/May 2017
Phase 2: Review panel meetings (revising and reviewing draft standards)	May-September 2017
Phase 3: Draft revised standards presented to the Board	November/December 2017
Phase 3: Draft revised standards made available for public comment	December-February 2018
Phase 3: Final draft of revised standards presented to Board for public comment and adoption	May/June 2018

Phase 4: Dissemination of standards; district curriculum adjustment and implementation	Spring 2018 – Spring 2020
Phase 5: Development of state assessment/first administration	April/May 2017 – December 2019; first administration – spring 2020
Phase 6: Incorporate HSS assessment as part of Competency Determination	To be determined

Budget

FY16 – Phase 1
Anticipated FY 16 Total: \$10 – 20k
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of standards - Funding to: recruit panelists, conduct outreach for initial input from the field • Assessment – no additional cost anticipated
FY17 – Phases 1, 2, 5
Anticipated FY17 Total: Revision of Framework \$250-300k/ Assessment TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of standards – Funding to: convene review panel meetings and regional focus/public feedback groups, develop progress report for Board; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hire staff/consultants, conduct research, draft initial standards, establish meeting space, convene annual HSS conference • Assessment – some costs incurred as assessment development commences- \$TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hire staff
FY18 – Phases 2, 3, 4, 5
Anticipated FY18 Total: Revision of Framework \$250-300k/ Assessment TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of standards – Funding to: convene review panel meetings, draft revised standards-Board /public comment, make additional revisions, adopt revised standards; fund dissemination/implementation/professional development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fund staff salaries/consultants, draft revised standards, establish meeting space, convene annual HSS conference • Assessment – item development, pilot - \$TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fund staff salaries, item development; pilot assessment
FY19 – Phases 4, 5
Anticipated FY19 Total: Revision of Framework \$350-400k/ Assessment TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of standards- Funding to: support dissemination/implementation/professional development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fund staff salaries/consultants, establish History–Social Science Fellows program to support dissemination/educator professional development, convene annual HSS conference • Assessment - item development, field test - \$TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fund staff salaries, item development, professional development – more funds required if assessments are locally scored

FY20 – Phases 4, 5

Anticipated FY20 Total: Revision of Framework \$350-400k/ Assessment TBD

- **Revision of standards** –Funding to: support dissemination/implementation/ professional development
 - Fund staff salaries/consultants, continue History –Social Science Fellows program to support dissemination/educator professional development, convene annual HSS conference
- **Assessment** – first full administration \$TBD
 - Fund staff salaries, item development, professional development – more funds required if assessments are locally scored

Senior Associate Commissioner Brooke Clenchy and other members of the Department staff will be at the Board meeting on January 26 to answer your questions.