

Social Studies Curriculum Review & Adoption

May Committee of the Whole

Brenda Spartz, Jen Larva, London Goode, Susan Schmidt



Major Shifts in the New Social Studies Standards

- **Increased use of inquiry process**
 - Students will be expected to ask questions, investigate problems and explore topics while teachers support their ability to do this
- **Focus on disciplinary literacy skills**
 - Students will be expected to read, write, speak, perform, and think critically as well as learn the content to master standards
- **Addition of Ethnic Studies strand in all grade levels**
 - K-12 standards that focus on the experience and perspective of people of color in our country and around the world
- **Kindergarten-8th grade interdisciplinary model**
 - The K-8 standards now center around a grade-level themes instead of social studies disciplines (history, economics, etc.)



Social Studies Curriculum Adoption Process

- 2022-2023
 - K-12 Committee analyzed the new standards to learn about changes
- 2023-2024
 - K-12 Committee conducted needs assessment with staff, students, and community members
 - [List of priorities](#) from needs assessment
- 2024-2025
 - K-5 Committee reviewed available social studies resources using [Instructional Resources Evaluation Form](#) and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Form](#)
 - K-6 Committee began revising written curriculum to meet new standards
- 2025-2026
 - K-5 Committee is currently piloted [Studies Weekly](#) and [Exploring Social Studies: Minnesota](#)
 - 6-12 Committee made recommendations for changes to course catalog
 - Provided professional development on new Social Studies standards for teaching staff
 - Teacher committees are revising written curriculum to meet new standards
 - Obtained feedback from District Advisory Committee
- 2026-2027
 - Implementation of 2021 Minnesota Social Studies Standards



Social Studies Curriculum Selection

- K-5 Social Studies Committee Selected [Exploring Social Studies: Minnesota](#)
 - Higher ratings in all categories, especially planning, instruction, assessment, culturally responsive instruction, and social justice
 - Full alignment to the MN Social Studies Standards, including all ethnic studies standards
 - Easier for teachers to implement in limited time
 - Less expensive than other options
 - Publishers consulted with representative from Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- 6th Grade Continued Yearly Purchase of Northern Lights
 - Reasons and benefits



Adoption Cost

- Exploring Social Studies: MN (K-5): \$244,989.35*
- Northern Lights (6th Grade): \$9,500
- Total Cost: **\$254,489.35**

*The cost for Exploring Social Studies: MN is a one-time purchase until the next adoption. No yearly consumables or subscription fees are necessary.



Contact Information



Brenda Spartz

Elementary Education
Director
brenda.spartz@isd709.org

Jen Larva

Secondary Education
Director
jen.larva@isd709.org

Dr. Dale Uselman

MTSS / Curriculum & Instruction
Coordinator
dale.uselman@isd709.org

Julie Stauber

MTSS / Curriculum & Instruction
Coordinator
julie.stauber@isd709.org

London Goode

Elementary Social Studies
Content Specialist
london.goode@isd709.org

Susan Schmidt

Secondary Social Studies
Content Specialist
susan.schmidt@isd709.org