

Elementary Social Studies Curriculum Framework Overview

Social Studies is comprised of five main areas: Government and Civics, Culture and Society, Economics, Geography and Historical Perspective. These major divisions of Social Studies are based on the Academic Expectations and Demonstrators, Core Content for Assessment, Program of Studies and Social Studies National Standards. In the Fayette County Public Schools' Social Studies Curriculum Framework, bullets from the Program of Studies will appear in both the Content and Demonstrator columns. Some POS bullets refer to content and others are more strongly linked to process. It should also be noted that Social Studies Demonstrators play an equally important role with the Core Content in the development of assessment items. They should also be used when designing instruction. In the Social Studies Curriculum Framework, the Core Content has been edited in the primary grades to reflect a developmentally appropriate continuum of learning.

Social Studies is a concept-based curriculum, which teaches beyond the facts by providing opportunities for students to manipulate content through the critical thinking skills. Exemplary social studies teaching builds on prior knowledge that students bring to the classroom, and promotes a student's sense of ownership in the curriculum by fostering the study of the cultural groups to which they belong. There should be an emphasis on inquiry and problem solving about significant human issues that involve students' participation in interactive and cooperative classroom instructional practices.

When possible, social studies should be integrated with other content disciplines. The content in the FCPS Curriculum Framework is arranged in a sequence that allows for connections to be made to other content areas through the development of integrated units of study. The sequence takes into account time sensitive content and chronological sequencing of social studies concepts. Although the framework is grade specific, consideration was also given to facilitate unit development in multi-age primary classrooms. Each level must cover all content in order to prepare students for mastery of concepts to be assessed.

Term	Definition
Academic Expectations A E	From <i>Transformations: Kentucky's Curriculum Framework</i>
Demonstrators	What students should be able to do with the content they have learned.
Core Content for Assessment CC (e.g., SS-E-1.1.2)	SS —Social Studies E —Elementary Content Category Number — 1 (Government and Civics), 2 (Culture and Society), 3 (Economics), 4 (Geography), 5 (Historical Perspective) Group Category Number —Similar Core Content is bundled into groups Item Number —Item number within a group
Program of Studies POS (e.g., POS-SS-5-CS-2)	POS —Program of Studies SS —Social Studies Level — P (Primary), 4 (4 th Grade), 5 (5 th Grade) Content Category — GC (Government and Civics), CS (Culture and Society), E (Economics), G (Geography), H (Historical Perspective) Item Number —Item number within a category