



North Dakota Social Studies Content Standards Writing Committee Meeting Minutes March 25-26, 2026

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Coteau Room, North Dakota State Capitol

Facilitator: Davonne Eldredge, NDDPI

Meeting Convened: 8:00 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 PM

Attendance – Social Studies Content Standards Writing Committee Members

- Grace Brandt, Wahpeton Public Schools
- Melissa Davis, Bismarck Public Schools
- Vanessa DeCoteau, Bismarck Public Schools
- Kyra DelaBarre, Bismarck Public Schools
- Devan Douglas, Dickinson Public Schools
- Rachel Duerr, West Fargo Public Schools
- Ryan Dunnigan, Bismarck Public Schools
- Melissa Evensen, Fargo Public Schools
- Morgan Keena, West Fargo Public Schools
- Kate Klootwyk, Bismarck Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Learn, ND University System
- Lauren Moran, Fargo Public Schools
- Kristine Owens, Bismarck Public Schools
- Erin Petersen, West Fargo Public Schools
- Jessica Rice, Fargo Public Schools
- Aaron Rudebusch, (Virtual), West Fargo Public Schools
- Greif, Sarah, West Fargo Public Schools
- Hall, Kari, Williston Public Schools
- Hanson, Kristi, Jamestown Public Schools
- Horning, Beth, Bismarck Public Schools
- Kallenbach, Jennifer, Kidder Co. Public Schools
- Rachel Schuehle, Light of Christ Catholic Schools
- Dana Storseth, Minot Public Schools
- Alexandria Weber, Midway Public Schools
- Laurel Wenger, Bismarck Public Schools
- Kayla Werre, Nedrose Public Schools

Attendance – North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), Northeast Education Services Cooperative (NESC), North Dakota Courts, State Historical Society of North Dakota, and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) Members

- Davonne Eldredge, NDDPI
- Shannon Sorenson, NDDPI
- Lucy Fredericks, NDDPI
- Sashay Schettler, NDDPI
- Ann Ellefson, NDDPI
- Bryan Pechtl, ND Courts
- Madison Milbrath, State Historical Society
- Dr. Scott Simpson, BHSSC (Virtual)
- Sharla Steever, BHSSC (Virtual)

Welcome and Introductions

Davonne Eldredge welcomed the Social Studies Writing Committee members and expressed gratitude for their services and committed support. She facilitated introductions of the writing committee members and staff from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), ND Courts, and State Historical Society of North Dakota staff, and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC).

Introduction to Standards Development

Davonne Eldredge reviewed the purpose of content standards, North Dakota legislative mandates regarding standards, responsibilities of the state and local school districts regarding standards and curriculum, responsibilities of the writing committee, and use of the public comment and a review committee to provide future feedback. The North Dakota open records and open meetings laws were also reviewed. The consensus method for the committee and use of TEAMS files to record the work of the committee was reviewed.

Review of Social Studies Requirements

Mrs. Eldredge reviewed the requirements in North Dakota Century Code regarding social studies. Proposed legislation regarding social studies content from previous legislative sessions was shared.

Presentation: North Dakota Studies

Madison Milbrath from the State Historical Society reviewed the instructional materials available for North Dakota Studies. She also reviewed some future changes to these instructional materials.

Presentation: Federalism and the Courts

Shannon Sorenson, NDDPI, and Bryan Pechtl, ND Courts, reviewed the roles of levels of government and recent North Dakota Court cases that would support instruction on the Constitution and Bill of Rights. A resource created by ND Courts to help instructors find cases that would pertain to lessons was shared.

Presentation: Tribal History in North Dakota

Sashay Schettler (NDDPI) shared information regarding the history of North Dakota tribal nations. Lucy Fredericks (NDDPI), Dr. Scott Simpson (BHSSC), and Sharla Steever (BHSSC) shared information regarding the recently updated tribal history resources created by each North Dakota tribe. They also shared updates to the Teachings of Our Elders website that is a resource educators may use to teach about the tribal nations in North Dakota.

Presentation Reflections

The committee broke into small groups to discuss the presentations and potential applications of information and resources as they revise the standards. These observations were shared with the entire group. The information from the discussion was compiled in TEAMS.

North Dakota Learning Continuum Review

The committee members reviewed the content from the Social Studies section of the North Dakota Learning Continuum. They discussed potential use of this information as they reviewed social studies skills for the revised standards.

Review of the Revision Survey Results

The committee reviewed the results of the revision survey provided by social studies educators in the state. The survey asked educators to identify perceived strengths, opportunities for improvement, skills and concepts students should have, and suggestions for the writing committee. The trends from the responses and the raw data from the survey were shared with the committee. The committee discussed these results in small groups.

Review of the Current Standards

The committee members reviewed the results of the 2021 Fordham Institute Review of North Dakota's social studies standards. They also reviewed an AI generated analysis of the current standards. These reviews were used to identify potential revisions for the current standards. The committee discussed the information in small groups.

Reflections on the Reviews of the Current Standards

The committee discussed the information from the reviews. This information was recorded in TEAMS. Upon completion of this activity, the tasks for the following day were discussed. The committee will review standards from other states and discuss the focus of the standards revision work.

Thursday, March 26, 2026

8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Coteau Room, North Dakota State Capitol

Facilitator: Davonne Eldredge, NDDPI

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- Shannon Sorenson, NDDPI
- Lucy Fredericks, NDDPI
- Ann Ellefson, NDDPI
- Madison Milbrath, State Historical Society
- Bryan Pecht, ND Courts

Welcome Back and Announcements

Davonne Eldredge welcomed the group back and reviewed the agenda for the day.

Reflections on Day 1

Mrs. Eldredge reviewed the presentations and work from the previous day. The work will continue with identifying key content and skills students should have when graduating and at each level. They will also review standards from other states.

Discussion: What Skills and Knowledge Should Students Have in Social Studies When They Graduate

The committee broke into cross-grade level groups to identify the skills and knowledge students should have in social studies when they graduate. During this discussion, they included information from the presentations, surveys, and reviews from the previous day. They recorded their information in the TEAMS folder.

Group Discussion

The committee held a whole group discussion in which they shared the information regarding expectations of graduates from the small groups.

Discussion: What Skills and Knowledge Should Student Have in Social Studies When They Enter and Exit Each Level

The committee broke into grade level groups to identify key skills and knowledge students should have when they enter and exit their levels. This information was recorded in TEAMS.

Welcome by Superintendent Bachmeier

Superintendent Levi Bachmeier greeted the committee members and discussed the work before the committee. He answered questions presented by the group that were based on their earlier discussions.

Discussion: What Skills and Knowledge Should Student Have in Social Studies When They Enter and Exit Each Level

The committee broke into small grade level groups to continue with the discussion. Responses were recorded in TEAMS.

Standards Review

The committee broke into grade-level groups to review the standards most recently revised by other states to examine how they answered the questions the committee had remaining. They noted their observations from the review in the TEAMS file. Once the review was completed, the groups shared their observations with the entire committee.

Small Group Work

The small grade level groups met to discuss the knowledge and skills needed at their levels. This was shared with the large group. The committee reflected on the similarities expressed by the different groups and how that information pertained to the revision work ahead.

Reflections on Day 2 and Planning for April

Mrs. Eldredge reviewed the work completed in the two-day session. The information from the presentations, standards reviews, and skill and knowledge discussions will be used when the committee meets in April at which time the committee will start drafting revisions.