



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas SHT

DATE: February 7, 2020

SOCIAL STUDIES ACADEMIC POLICY UPDATE

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the recent Social Studies changes adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). The new legislation requires the following courses for graduation: (1) *Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy* and (2) *Economics and Personal Finance*. These courses will impact graduation requirements for all students including students following the Occupational Course of Study (OCS).

The draft standards for these courses may be viewed by accessing the following link: [Draft Social Studies Standards and Survey Links](#)

Once the standards have been approved, resources for these courses will be made available. Please encourage teachers of students following the OCS, who are credentialed to teach Social Studies, to access all available resources located on the NCDPI Social Studies webpage and to participate in training provided for these courses. Students following the OCS will receive instruction in the same course standards for these required courses as students following the traditional Standard Course of Study (SCOS).

The SBE policy in effect for 2020-2021 SY removed the requirement for the Social Studies North Carolina Final Exams (NCFE). However, should a required assessment be associated with a course, students following the OCS must participate in that assessment.

The GRAD-004 policy is located at the following link: [GRAD-004 Policy](#)

Please reference sections II, IV, and V for guidelines specific to the OCS. Always follow the guidelines in place the year the student entered the 9th grade for the first time.

For additional details regarding the new Social Studies changes, please view the recorded informational webinar at the following link: [NCDPI Academic Policy Update Webinar](#)

Questions regarding these Social Studies changes can be directed to Beverly Colwell, Consultant for Intellectual Disabilities and Secondary Education, at Beverly.Colwell@dpi.nc.gov.

SHT/DM/bc

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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