



Student Reflections on MDE Public Hearing on Academic Standards for Social Studies on January 28, 2022

Introduction and Purpose

Teacher: Alexandria Drake

-JPS-Tougaloo ECHS, US History

-B.S. Social Science Edu.; Jackson State Univ.

-M.A. African and African Diaspora Studies,
Univ. of Texas at Austin

Students: Arianna Brumfield, Arielle Brumfield, Lynzi Davis, JohnAnna Esters, Jermarius Everett, Whitney Jones, Richeen Neal, Aznii Welchlin



Recent focus on MS Social Studies Curriculum in the Media

LEGISLATURE

Every Black Mississippi senator walked out as white colleagues voted to ban critical race theory

The historic, unprecedented walkout came over a vote on the academic theory that state education officials and Republican lawmakers acknowledge is not even taught in Mississippi.



MISSISSIPPI ACH

Mississippi Department of Education News Blog

HOME TEACHERS STUDENTS PARENTS DISTRICT LEADERS ACHIEVEMENTS

Public hearing on proposed changes to social studies standards set for Jan. 28

Administrator News

Y'all Politics

REACH MISSISSIPPIANS FROM THE COAST-TO-CORINTH

ADVERTISE WITH US. GET RESULTS. YP

DAILY ROUNDUP MS LEGISLATURE ELECTED OFFICIALS DC ECONOMIC FREEDOM FEATURES ABOUT US

Home » DC » New social studies curriculum proposed by Mississippi Dept. of Education should raise...

DC EDUCATION ELECTED OFFICIALS ELECTED OFFICIALS FEATURES HEADLINES LEGISLATURE LIFESTYLE LOCAL MS LEGISLATURE

New social studies curriculum proposed by Mississippi Dept. of Education should raise eyebrows

By Frank Corder - December 31, 2021



Examples of Standards that originally raised concern:

MS.7

Examine the economic, political, and social changes in post Reconstruction Mississippi.
(Strands: Civics, Civil Rights, Geography, History, Economics)

6. Examine the lasting cultural effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Mississippi.

1. Evaluate the impact of Reconstruction on Mississippi's social structure.
2. Trace the changes in Mississippi's economy and technology in the decades following Reconstruction.
3. Analyze Reconstruction reforms that contributed to the social and economic changes after the Civil War. ~~realities for African Americans during the Jim Crow Era in Mississippi.~~
4. Examine the changes of the Mississippi Constitution from Reconstruction to 1890.

1. Name important people of the modern Civil Rights Movement, including Mississippians. ~~Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, James Meredith, Fannie Lou Hamer, Charles Evers, etc. (becomes 2)~~

8.7

Evaluate the impact of the American social

4. Compare and contrast the cultural, religious, and social impact of the Industrial Revolution on American.

5. Assess how geography influenced the location of factories.

1. ~~Summarize the works of formerly enslaved African Americans who worked to lead others to freedom.~~

1. ~~Evaluate~~ Examine abolitionists' roles in bringing the reality of slavery to the nation ~~(e.g.,~~



Student Reflections on Public Hearing

- Noticed lack of diversity in crowd at hearing. Those that would be impacted by the removal of Civil Rights Standards were not well represented.
- Noticed that the tone of the hearing seemed aggressive and intimidating (ex. The audience booed certain speakers).
- There was a push for patriotism (honoring constitution as is) over seeing constitution as a “living document”.
- Push for curriculum to reflect Christian values in school (ex. prayer in schools).
- Participants equated Critical Race Theory to Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum (SEL).



Student Reflections on Public Hearing

- There was a push for uniformity instead of celebrating diversity.
- There was concern that certain labor unions were omitted from parts of the standards.

Reflection Summation:

- Since there have been strong beliefs about race since the founding of the nation, we can not evade those origins. If we become more polarized in our beliefs and do not make an effort to unify and compromise, recent examples of civil unrest may continue to occur.



What is Critical Race Theory?

“The core idea is that race is a social construct, and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies.”

(Sawchuk, 2018)



Moving Forward, we, the students ask...

- that we be given a seat at the table on the district and state level when decisions are made that impact us.
 - for more specificity in the standards. Without this there will be no common body of knowledge in Mississippi.
 - to be seen in the curriculum.
 - to be encouraged to think critically.
- to be allowed to find the balance between patriotism and questioning our country's past and present.
 - that all schools get involved in forums such as this.
 - that this school board genuinely considers supporting the retention of Civil Rights standards as they are this year.
 - for other students to join us in responding to MDE's request for written feedback regarding proposed changes to the standards.





Feedback about the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Social Studies 2021 may also be submitted to the MDE in writing via email, jcornett@mdek12.org

or

mailed to Mississippi Department of Education

Attn: Jen Cornett, K - 12 Social Studies Director

P.O. Box 771, Jackson, MS 39205