



Clayton County Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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DR. MORCEASE J. BEASLEY
Superintendent/CEO of Schools

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Coordinator, K-12 Social Studies

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Dear Clayton County Public Schools,

The Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of Social Studies ensures that both teachers and students have access to a well-rounded, academically challenging curriculum that supports the teaching of the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). The core and supplemental resources, such as Document Based Questions or Unit Preview Day materials, are provided to support standard mastery. It is important to note that while resources are vetted and selected based on quality, relevance, and standards alignment, Clayton County Public Schools is not responsible for the views expressed in such documents.

The GSE standards reflect the minimum requirement to be taught. The GSE for Social Studies are primarily organized into four domains; geography, history, government, and economics and cover a variety of topics, including but not limited to, the founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America, the structure of our government, slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, women's suffrage, and the history of minority groups such as American Indians. CCPS Department of Social Studies trains our teachers to teach the GSE and to use instructional materials as written and provided by the GaDOE and those approved by our local board of education. For further guidance, teachers are directed to the Teacher Notes and Teacher Content Tutorial Videos from the GaDOE. Clayton County Public Schools is not responsible for the views expressed in documents, videos, and images that are not created by the District.

According to the historical thinking skills developed by the National Center for History in the Schools, students must understand multiple perspectives, which means learning about historical events and people that have diverse views. In order to teach students how to “think like a historian,” we must expose our students to historical documents with varied viewpoints. The teacher must provide a historical context that allows students to think critically about multiple perspectives and

help them understand the historical setting of each document. The Social Studies Georgia Milestones assesses all of the aforementioned skills. Therefore, we must do our due diligence to prepare students to be successful by exposing them to a variety of educational experiences.

America's history, as well as the world's history, is full of events that will continue to show up in our state standards. Also, our curriculum would not be complete without making connections between the past and the present, discussing current events, and making it relevant for our students now. When doing so, it is our job as social studies educators, among other things, to 1) provide students the opportunity to learn about history and current events using the content standards, 2) afford students the opportunity to learn about varied perspectives, 3) teach students to critically think about how historical trends manifest into current events and systems, and 4) support students in the learning process as they determine the beliefs and ideals they will adhere to for their lives.

Clayton County Public Schools acknowledge parents' rights to not have their children engage in learning about certain topics that extend on the standards, and the teachers in collaboration with the principal and parents may provide appropriate standards-based alternative assignments for those students. Parents are encouraged to visit the following I-policies to learn more about instructional considerations: IKB (Controversial Issues); IFAA (Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption); and IFBC (Media Programs).



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