



K-8 Social Studies Department Update

May 26, 2022

Photo credit: L. Guillory

Objectives

Setting the Stage

Early work in the role that has informed the needs/direction of the department

Current Status

Updates on K-8 landscape, as well as specifically K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade bands

Goals

Goals for the SS Department

Action Steps

Action steps for grades and grade bands

Questions

Questions, Comments, Useful Links

Setting the Stage

- Connected with teachers and administrators
- Conducted an informal review of current *Curriculum* and *Curricular Materials*
- Provided updated instructional guidance for SY 21-22 for K-8, including optional/additional curricular materials for K-5
- Reviewed and balanced department budget and materials
- Engaged in professional learning of the broader Social Studies landscape
- Performed a formal internal review of PSB Curriculum and Curricular Materials for K-2

Photo credit: P. Perkins

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Current Status: K-8

CURRICULUM

PSB K-5 Scope and Sequence work can aid in interdisciplinary learning

Largely incomplete, disorganized, inequitable

Largely devoid of embedded, intentional supports and/or extensions

C

CURRICULAR MATERIALS

Teachers/Teams have created and shared in-depth, innovative work

Largely incomplete, disorganized, inequitable

Inconsistent alignment to 2018 Framework

CM

Inconsistent time on learning from building to building, grade to grade, and class to class

Inconsistent and under-supported instructional practices

Has not been addressed by curriculum, curricular materials, or PD

PEDAGOGY

P

PD

Teachers want to improve practice

Unclear/undefined PD system

No designated time with K-5

Limited district-wide capacity to support

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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	Strengths	Opportunities
K-2	- Clear focus on incorporating lives of students, families and communities into the classroom - Clear focus on having students engage with the community around them - Some Current Curriculum/Curricular Materials are organized by unit and connected to the 2018 MA Framework	- Current Curriculum/Curricular Materials incomplete/inconsistent - Curriculum/Curricular Materials not standards aligned - Need to Review/Revise Learning Expectations (LEs)
3-5	- New textbooks in Grades 3 and 5 (to be reviewed) - Hidden Brookline, Social Justice Grants (grades 3 & 4) - DESE Pilot Grade 5 continues - Lincoln School	- Current Curriculum/Curricular Materials incomplete/inconsistent - No PD associated with new textbook in grades 3 or 5 after purchase - Review Grade 4 alignment to 2018 MA Framework - Need to Review/Revise Learning Expectations (LEs)
6-8	Grades 6-7 - Curriculum began shift to 2018 MA Framework pre-Covid, largely aligned - DESE Pilot continues- Lincoln Grade 7 - Applied for Grade 6 DESE Pilot Grade 8 - Hybrid Course - History/Civics - Pilot of Civic Action Project - Applied for DESE Grant: Course Design/Selection/Implementation/Partnership with Generation Citizen - Review of Pilot MCAS materials	- Current Curriculum/Curricular Materials incomplete/inconsistent - Curriculum work needed in specific areas of grade 6 and grade 7 - Course Design/Selection and Implementation in Grade 8 to create more equitable learning for students - Where to "house" Civic Action Project in grade 8 - Need to Review/Revise Learning Expectations (LEs)

Goals

CURRICULUM

Alignment to 2018 MA Framework Standards: Curriculum and Practice
 Updates LEs, Progress Reports
 Usability, accessibility, consistency, sustainability, equity
 Supports and challenges all students

C

CURRICULAR MATERIALS

Complete and comprehensive
 Reflective of stakeholder values
 Representative and reflective of all PSB students and families
 Authentic learning opportunities

CM

Embedded in C & CM

Culturally Responsive and Best Practices
 Build teacher capacity, confidence, skill in leading courageous conversations
 Consistent Time on Learning

PEDAGOGY

P

PD

Multi-faceted: C & P
 Upfront, ongoing, designated time
 Increase District Staffing and Teacher Leadership Opportunities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Action Steps (in progress)

Photo credit: D. Lipton

- K-2 External Materials Review
- Revision of Course Overviews K-8
- Work with OTL to create a more predictable, accessible & sustainable PD structure
- Work with OTL regarding increased staffing in the Social Studies Department
- Internal Materials Review of grades 3 and 4, 6-8 **(begins Summer 2022)**
- Grade 8 course design **(begins Summer 2022)**

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Action Steps (next steps)

Photo credit: D. Lipton

- Revision of Vision, Mission, Goals of the Social Studies Department
- Revision of K-8 Learning Expectations
- Work with OTL on consistent Time on Learning for Social Studies
- 6-12 materials review (METCO/SS collaboration)
- Vetting of External Materials for 3 and 4

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Questions?

Useful Links

- [2018 History and Social Science Framework](#)
- [Practice Standards](#)
- [C3 Framework](#)

Contact Information

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Thank You!