

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation
State Board of Education
(DLS Control No. 14-283)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

This regulation updates the provisions of the Social Studies Instructional Programs for grades Prekindergarten through 12 to align the program requirements with the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

The regulation presents no legal issue of concern.

There is no impact on State or local agencies.

Regulation of COMAR Affected

State Board of Education:

Specific Subjects: Program in Social Studies: COMAR 13A.04.08.01

Legal Analysis

Background

The College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards (C3 Framework) was developed by the National Council for the Social Studies, working collaboratively with 23 states, including Maryland, and other stakeholders. The C3 Framework is designed to offer guidance for state social studies standards, rather than to outline specific content. The C3 Framework objectives are to (1) enhance the rigor of the social studies disciplines; (2) build critical thinking, problem solving, and participatory skills to become engaged citizens; and (3) align academic programs to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies.

The State Board of Education advises that the regulation was considered during a public meeting on September 23, 2014. The State board plans to consider final action on the regulation during a public meeting scheduled for January 27, 2015.

Summary of Regulation

The regulation updates the provisions of the Social Studies Instructional Programs for grades Prekindergarten through 12 to align with the C3 Framework. The regulation requires each student to participate in a comprehensive instructional program that includes social studies processes and skills, history, economics, and civics. The updated provisions for social studies processes and skills reflect a new focus on the use of disciplinary and inquiry literacies and

provide examples of the literacies. The history standards require students to evaluate why and how events occurred, locate and assess a variety of sources, engage in historical inquiry, and analyze changes over time in Maryland, the United States, and the world. Regarding geography, students must appreciate their own place in the world and foster curiosity about environments and cultures, use geographic reasoning, use spatial and environmental perspective, and apply geographic representation. The economics standards require students to evaluate decision-making relating to the allocation of resources, consider costs-benefits and the interaction of buyers and sellers in a global market, and develop economic reasoning. For civics, formerly referred to as political science, the regulation adds a requirement that students engage in political participation and contribute to the public process.

Legal Issue

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The State board cites § 2-205(h) of the Education Article as legal authority for the regulation. Section 2-205(h)(1) requires the State board, with the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, to establish basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for the public schools. This authority is correct and complete. The regulation complies with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The regulation alters the requirements for the Maryland Social Studies Program to reflect the C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards. The department advises that the regulation has no fiscal impact on State or local governments, given that local agencies can use existing resources to make any curriculum changes made necessary by the regulation. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The department advises that the regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small business in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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