

Jason E. Glass, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education
300 Sower Blvd., 5th Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601

September 29, 2022

Dear Commissioner Glass,

We are concerned that the Department of Education has responded inadequately to Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 158.196's legislative mandate requiring a revision to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies (KAS-SS)*. We have read the public comment by the National Association of Scholars (NAS) and the Civics Alliance, and we believe that its criticisms and its recommendations are well-founded.¹ We agree in particular with these points:

- The Department should substitute new documents where the NAS and the Civics Alliance have identified repetition, tangential relevance, and outright chronological error.
- The Department generally should cite different historical documents for each Standard and Clarification Statement.
- The Department should incorporate all 24 documents KRS 158.196 specifies into the Middle-School Standards *and* also incorporate all 24 into the High-School Standards.
- The Department should include a far greater range of primary sources in the KAS-SS, such as those recommended by NAS and the Civics Alliance.
- The Department should incorporate historical documents into the Standards themselves rather than into the Disciplinary Clarifications.
- The Department should define *Impact of Fundamental Documents on the Development of the United States* as an Inquiry Practice and apply it to all U.S. history and civics Standards.
- The Department should completely revise KAS-SS to ensure that Kentucky's social studies instruction accords with American ideals such as equality, freedom, inalienable rights, respect for individual rights, liberty, and the consent of the governed. It should use

¹ NAS Recommends Further Revisions to Kentucky's Academic Standards for Social Studies, September 20, 2022, <https://www.nas.org/blogs/article/nas-recommends-further-revisions-to-kentuckys-academic-standards-for-social-studies>.

*American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards and social studies standards in South Dakota and Louisiana as models for this revision.*²

We urge the Department of Education to revise KAS-SS to meet these criticisms.

Respectfully yours,

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² *American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards*, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/american-birthright/>; South Dakota Social Studies Standards (Proposed 8/15/22), <https://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/documents/SS-Proposed.pdf>; 2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies, https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/2022-k-12-louisiana-student-standards-for-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=df396518_14.