Checklist for Social Studies Curriculum Revision

PHASE ONE: Preparing for a Curriculum Revision

- Develop communication plan for revision process, including the rationale and goals for completing the process.
- Develop a proposed timeline for curriculum revision.
- Gather literature on best practices and current research of effective social studies instruction.
- Conduct a needs assessment plan to compile information from social studies staff on:
  - their perception and attitude toward the current curriculum.
  - their perception on the role of assessment in social studies instruction.
  - their perception on the degree of student success with current curriculum.
  - their perception on the level of success with the instructional resources that support the current curriculum.
  - their perception on the role of current and future role of technology in social studies instruction.
  - their perception on the professional development provided to support current curriculum.
- Gather documentation on the current district social studies program, including the district social studies standards, benchmarks, and course-level expectations.
- Gather information to share regarding the Iowa Core in Social Studies.
- Gather information to share regarding the Iowa Professional Development Model.
- Gather district social studies data to be reviewed.
- Assemble a Social Studies Curriculum Revision Team that is representative of the demographics of the district.

PHASE TWO: The Curriculum Revision Process

- Create norms for success as a curriculum revision committee.
- Review, as a committee:
  - literature regarding best practices and current research of effective social studies instruction.
  - data and information from completed needs assessment
  - district social studies data.
  - current legislative mandates regarding social studies, including the Iowa Core in the area of Social Studies and ELA Literacy K-5 and ELA Literacy for History and Social Studies 6-12.
  - district board policies regarding curriculum revision and social studies instruction
  - current social studies curriculum.
- Articulate a K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Philosophy
Create or revise/rewrite the current philosophy statement for the district social studies curriculum.

Create or revise/rewrite curriculum goal statements that align with the new philosophy statement.

Create grade level/course expectations and instructional objectives that align with the curriculum goal statements and philosophy. Include things such as enduring understandings and big ideas along with compelling questions for each grade level or secondary course.

Align the curriculum standards, benchmarks, and course level expectations with the grade level/course expectations and instructional objectives. Review current scope and sequence of social studies curriculum.

Identify and propose an updated scope and sequence aligned to the philosophy, goals, grade level instructional objectives, and standards/benchmarks/course level expectations.

Create a “curriculum map” of newly revised program to identify any potential gaps.

Think about inclusion and integration of the following in the social studies curriculum:

- Digital Literacy (Iowa Core 21st century skills)
- Financial literacy (Iowa Core 21st century skills)
- Civic Literacy (Iowa Core 21st century skills)
- Inquiry-based social studies instruction
- Multicultural perspectives for all social studies curricular instruction

Write course-level descriptions that include the core content of the course, a suggested pacing guide, resources that support the course, and a description of how the course meets all requirements of the Iowa Core in Social Studies.

Create an assessment plan, including formative and summative assessments, to measure student attainment of the newly revised curriculum.

- Creation of common formative or performance assessments for each grade level or course.

Create supplemental materials that support talented and gifted instruction as well as supplemental and intensive instructional interventions.

Present draft of the updated framework for the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum to district administration and select control feedback group (teaching staff, parents, and community members) for review and feedback. Make needed revisions.

Select Instructional Resources to support new curriculum –

- Selection and adoption of textbook series or other core instructional resources.
- Selection and adoption of supplemental instructional resources
- Selection and/or development of digital resources
- Selection and/or development of text sets to support instructional units within the K-12 curriculum.

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1 Compelling questions, as defined in the C3 Framework, address problems and issues found in the various social studies disciplines. They have a foundational basis in content and curriculum.
Present newly revised curriculum to the school district ‘Board of Education’ for review and approval.

PHASE THREE: Implementation

- Create a timeline for the implementation of the newly revised curriculum.
- Create a budget for purchase of curriculum resources.
- Purchase selected instructional resources.
- Create a plan for professional development for implementation of the newly revised curriculum. Utilize the Iowa Professional Development Model.
- Create grade or course level teacher sessions (possibly PLC’s) to share new learnings, instructional lessons and units, assessments, student work, and materials that support the newly revised curriculum.

PHASE FOUR: Evaluation

- Develop monitoring materials for teacher implementation including:
  - Classroom walk through checklists
  - Exemplars for artifact collection for teacher evaluation
  - Exemplars for artifact collection for administrator evaluation.
  - Select or develop data collection methods and materials to measure implementation
- Review data from common performance assessments for each course.
- Create program evaluation that is an objective survey/assessment of the approved curriculum to determine implementation fidelity and degree of effectiveness with instructional resources to support the curriculum implementation.
- Create a plan for ongoing systematic assessment and review of the social studies curriculum.