

Elevating Your Vision for Social Studies Education with AIR's Standards and Assessments

AIR's Services for Standards and Assessments in Social Studies

To help educators improve social studies instruction and strengthen learning outcomes, AIR has established meaningful partnerships with school districts, publishers, teachers, and other organizations. These partnerships provide us opportunities to develop services that support educators and their communities in numerous ways.

AIR can provide a variety of social studies assistance:

- State standards revision
- Commonalities database reporting
- Implementation mapping
- High-quality instructional materials
- Curriculum development and alignment
- Professional learning opportunities



Partnership Opportunities

State Standards Revision Facilitation | AIR has extensive experience supporting the revision and development of K–12 social studies standards across states and territories. We work with states to navigate the intricacies of the standards revision and development processes and facilitate the development of standards that support all students.

AIR supports the standards revision and development processes in the following ways:

- Conducting literature reviews and/or landscape scans
- Developing surveys to collect public feedback
- Creating agendas, presentation slides, and other resources to facilitate writing of the standards
- Coordinating virtual and in-person workshops or feedback sessions
- Developing resources to support standards implementation (e.g., asynchronous/synchronous professional learning modules, implementation guides)

Commonalities Database Reporting | The Social Studies Standards Commonalities Database is a proprietary system AIR developed to assist in data scans of all social studies content standards in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Using the database, AIR supports our partners in the following ways:

- Conducting analyses of social studies content standards, such as reviews of individual state, regional, and national trends and keyword or phrase lookup and comparison
- Generating detailed and tailored comparative reports

For more information on the database content and structure, please view our [Commonalities Database Presentation](#).

Implementation Mapping | Implementation mapping helps set and assess goals and create common language around standards implementation. AIR's approach includes identifying research-based, state-specific priorities that account for the multiple influences on and varied requirements of successful social studies standards implementation.

AIR supports the implementation mapping process in the following ways:

- Conducting needs assessments
- Strategic planning for identifying goals, objectives, and desired outcomes for implementation
- Thought partnership for understanding how to facilitate and support implementation of the standards
- Creating resources to support implementation aligned to the standards (e.g., multiyear implementation plans, progression roadmaps)
- Designing assessment tools and success metrics to evaluate impact and effectiveness at each stage of implementation
- Identifying and establishing common processes and tools to support local implementation of standards

High-Quality Instructional Materials Support | High-quality instructional materials in social studies can engage all students and improve learning outcomes. AIR leverages our [*Criteria for High-Quality Instructional Materials for Social Studies*](#), which we developed in partnership with EdReports, to help states, districts, educators, and publishers review and reflect on curricula for classroom use.

AIR supports our partners with high-quality instructional materials in the following ways:

- Developing tools for identifying and evaluating high-quality instructional materials (e.g., rubrics, evidence guides, checklists)
- Facilitating and conducting formative reviews of materials
- Supporting lesson plan or curriculum audits
- Conducting professional learning or training on high-quality instructional materials
- Guiding curriculum development
- Evaluating assessment protocols

Curriculum Development and Alignment | Successful standards implementation includes curricula that integrate research-based experiences aligned to standards. In partnership with districts and states, including the U.S. Virgin Islands, AIR facilitates and supports the curriculum development process.

AIR supports curriculum development and alignment in the following ways:

- Conducting landscape scans of high-quality social studies curricula and resources
- Facilitating curriculum development efforts through virtual and in-person sessions with writing teams
- Developing common protocols, tools, and templates to support curriculum development
- Facilitating interviews, focus groups, and other feedback sessions with district leaders, school administrators, educators, and community partners
- Conducting state standards alignment studies
- Providing professional learning and training on curriculum development

Professional Learning Opportunities | Professional learning is a foundational component for building and expanding knowledge and skills around critical topics in social studies education. AIR's experience with standards revision and implementation processes across states has led to the development of professional learning resources on cross-cutting ideas and best practices.

AIR offers an array of professional learning opportunities for state representatives, district leaders, school administrators, educators, and other professionals on topics like best practices in social studies education; unpacking inquiry; integrating literacy and social studies; creating collaborative civic spaces; developing high-quality performance-based assessments.

AIR's Work in Social Studies Standards

To learn more about AIR's extensive experience working with school districts and state education agencies or to work with us, please visit our [Social Studies Standards webpage](#).



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