

From: Cheever, David
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:38 AM
To: DOE, SIS <SIS.DOE@maine.gov>
Subject: social studies standards review

Beth and DOE Standards Committee,

I have read the proposed Standards and agree with the proposed approach(es) to teaching and learning this vital component of our elementary and secondary education.

There is one thing, however, that I believe needs to be emphasized more strongly.

Throughout the proposal, as a seeming balance to the expectations upon them, educators are provided some latitude with respect to subject matter that affords them the opportunity to present Social Studies across a global landscape. That is likely welcome and helpful in some respects, but it leaves a key piece untethered. As presented, there is no expectation that Maine students learn anything about the history of the state in which they live.

The proposal's structure is an admirable effort to present for understanding the process(es) by and through which we learn Social Studies. As such, that provides the How of the effort while leaving to the educator's discretion the What.

Admittedly, the resources for educators to present Maine-based history/social studies appears to be thin, but that is an inconvenient crutch to support what seems to be the proposal's priorities.

To employ bumper sticker logic, we need only to look at the Social Studies lessons arising from the tragedy of Parkland, Florida. The students there are thinking globally, which is a desired outcome, and acting locally, which is even better.

Maine students need to countenance a larger universe, yes, but they also need to be grounded in their arm's reach, up close and personal environment. They need to learn more about Maine history, and the proposal as written does not call for that.

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