

From: Kelly Clark [mailto:kclark@erskine247.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:42 AM
To: DOE, SIS <SIS.DOE@maine.gov>
Subject: Social Studies Standards Review

To whom it may concern,

As a veteran teacher at Erskine Academy I come into contact with students from seven different sending communities. Years ago it was apparent that certain communities would prepare their students in Social studies better than others. Unfortunately, over the past 5 to seven years, the six members that make up my department have witnessed a disheartening trend: students from all sending communities are ill prepared in this field and have relatively little exposure to concepts that once were the heart of the curriculum such as the five themes of geography, the ancient civilizations, Maine history, and basic knowledge concerning civics education.

If you want these standards to be taught, then they can't be written out of the curriculum. As assessments become more high stakes for elementary teachers, and they need to worry about test grades, more focus is being spent on literacy and mathematics, which makes sense for them. The backlash is that the social sciences are being neglected.

Sincerely,
Kelly Clark