

Horry County Schools Monitoring Report – R-4 Social Studies

I certify that the information in this report is true.

Signed: 
 Rick Maxey, Superintendent

Date: February 2, 2021

Disposition of the Board:

- ☒ In compliance
- ☐ Not in compliance
- ☐ Compliance with exception

Signed: 
 Ken Richardson, Board Chair

Date: 2/22/21

Comments: _____

R-4 – Social Studies	Supt	Supt	Board	Board
	In compliance	Not in compliance	In compliance	Not in compliance
Each student will achieve mastery of performance standards in Social Studies.	✓			

Interpretation: I interpret this policy to mean that Horry County Schools will implement a course of study that is aligned with the South Carolina academic standards for K-12 for social studies that will prepare students in the areas of history, geography, economics, and political science coupled with additional offerings at the high school level in the areas of sociology, psychology, current events and law.

I further interpret this to mean that the staff will regularly monitor and evaluate the instructional programs at each school as part of the ongoing efforts to improve student learning in the area of social studies. Staff will also provide ongoing support through professional development opportunities designed to build capacity for historical thinking, develop content knowledge, and foster strong literacy experiences for our K-12 social studies teachers.

Indicators of Evidence and Compliance:

We are in full compliance of this policy. Evidence is listed below:

- Horry County Schools curricula and course offerings are aligned with the Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards.
- Instructional materials adoption processes comply with state requirements.
- Implementation of the South Carolina state alignment guide continues to be a strategy for improving teaching and learning.
- Visual displays and timelines are utilized in classrooms to support social studies instruction.
- Consensus maps (pacing guides), lesson plans, and assessments are used to support implementation of state academic standards and instruction.
- Curriculum guides for grades 4 – 8 reflect inquiry and historical thinking of the South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards.
- Teams of teachers (4th – 12th grades) participate in ongoing professional development sessions focused on historical thinking and disciplinary literacy to support curriculum work with the new South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards.
- Performance tasks are embedded in consensus maps in grades 4 – 12 to provide opportunities for real-word application of standards and skills.
- U.S. History teachers and AP teachers are provided time to collaborate with peers and district content-area specialists.
- Teaching strategies, such as content vocabulary, content-area literacy, Paideia seminars, interactive notebooking, document-based questions (DBQ), and problem-based learning are emphasized in professional development sessions.
- Students in eighth-grade South Carolina history honors classes complete a research project and may choose to compete in the National History Day competition.
- Teachers plan with district specialists and assist in leading professional development sessions to support social studies instruction.
- Middle and high social studies teachers meet monthly with district specialists to ensure consistency of implementation of standards.
- Advanced Placement offerings include Human Geography, World History, European History, Psychology, U.S. History, U.S. Government and Politics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Comparative Government and Politics.
- Online social studies course offerings include college preparatory, honors, and Advanced Placement.
- District-supported digital resources utilized to support social studies instruction include *VERSO*, *Nearpod*, *Screencastify*, *EdPuzzle*, *DBQ Online*, *Choices*, *USA Test Prep*, and *Discovery Education Experience*.
- District common assessments are provided for U.S. History and grades 3-8 social studies courses.
- *We the People* materials are utilized to support teaching of foundational principles of American Democracy and of the Constitution.
- Student digital portfolios are used in various social studies courses.
- Teacher-created websites are utilized in middle and high school social studies.
- Students participate in district, state, and national competitions.
- Several Horry County Schools teachers are invited by College Board to participate as AP table leaders and readers.

- HCS social studies teachers are often asked to present at state and national conferences and to serve on various state committees.