



SOUTH DAKOTA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
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November 9, 2022

To the Board of Education Standards,

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA), South Dakota Parent-Teacher Association (SD-PTA), School Administrators of South Dakota (SASD), and the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) respectively request that the South Dakota Board of Education Standards schedule at least one of the last two hearings for the proposed social studies standards on a Saturday in January or March. A hearing hosted on the weekend will allow for more participation from the citizens of South Dakota, especially parents and educators.

A quick history: In 2012, the legislature passed HB 1128 which provided for a year-long review and public hearing process for the adoption of any new “Common Core” standards. Legislation was passed in 2014 to expand the process to cover all content standards adopted after 2014. Proponents argued that the year-long public hearing process, which you are currently following, would give the citizens the opportunity to rigorously examine any new standards and give ample opportunity for the public to provide input.

It is in that spirit that we request that at least one of the remaining two hearings be scheduled for a time that would maximize the opportunity for citizens, especially parents and educators, to attend in person to voice their opinions. Hearings held Monday through Friday during normal business hours limit participation because most parents are not able to take time off from their jobs and teachers aren't able to leave their classrooms. Our organizations believe it is vital to have their voices literally in the room as the decision about the content standards are made.

Finally, hosting a hearing on a Saturday will bring more transparency to the process and more transparency brings more public trust. We should all agree that the ultimate goals should be to adopt social studies standards that are good for students. By maximizing the voices in the room, we can accomplish just that. We appreciate the Board's consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Ryan Rolfs  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Education Associations on behalf of:  
Rob Monson, Executive Director, South Dakota School Administrators  
Wade Pogany, Executive Director, Associated School Boards of South Dakota  
Megan Snyder, President, South Dakota PTA