

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**April 2015****CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDER OF RULEMAKING TO WITHDRAW RULE 5 CSR 20-200.260,
RELATING TO ACADEMIC STANDARDS****STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Sections 160.514 and 161.092, RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 1:**

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

SUMMARY:

The Show-Me State Standards were developed in response to Senate Bill 380, the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. They were approved as a final regulation by the Missouri State Board of Education on January 18, 1996 in rule 5 CSR 20-200.260 Academic Standards. On October 17, 2014, some members of the General Assembly requested that alternate language be substituted for the phrase [*constitutional democracy*] within the Show-Me State Standards.

The Department received 10 comments on the proposed amendment to the rule. All comments were against the proposed change, but for different reasons. Eight of the responses requested different wording, and two responses requested no change at all. In addition, a 9-12 social studies work group legislated by HB 1490 is currently working on expectations to be completed by October 1, 2015. Due to the significance of the recommended changes, this discussion will focus on withdrawing the rule and proposing a new rule incorporating some of the changes. The new proposal will be submitted for public comment later this year.

PRESENTER:

Sharon Helwig, Assistant Commissioner, Office of College and Career Readiness, will assist with the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education authorize publication of an order of rulemaking in the *Missouri Register* to withdraw Rule 5 CSR 20-200.260, relating to Academic Standards and that the State Board finds this withdrawal necessary to carry out the purposes of Sections 160.514 and 161.092.

Title 5 – DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Division 20 – Division of Learning Services
Chapter 200 – Office of College and Career Readiness

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

5 CSR 20-200.260 Academic Standards. The State Board of Education is amending the Purpose and section (1).

PURPOSE: This amendment revises language which clarifies the meaning of the standard regarding United States founding documents per a request from a member of the General Assembly.

*PURPOSE: Section 160.514, RSMo requires the State Board of Education (**board**) to adopt academic standards which establish the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for students to successfully advance through the public elementary and secondary education system of this state. This rule establishes those academic standards.*

(1) The following academic standards establish the minimum knowledge base, skills, and competencies necessary for students to successfully advance through the public elementary and secondary education system of this state; prepare students for *[post-secondary]* **postsecondary** education or the workplace or both; and are necessary in this era to preserve the rights and liberties of the people. The standards incorporate both what students should know and be able to do.

(A) Goal 1. Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze, and apply information and ideas. Students will demonstrate within and integrate across all content areas the ability to—

1. Develop questions and ideas to initiate and refine research;
2. Conduct research to answer questions and evaluate information and ideas;
3. Design and conduct field and laboratory investigations to study nature and society;
4. Use technological tools and other resources to locate, select, and organize information;
5. Comprehend and evaluate written, visual, and oral presentations and works;
6. Discover and evaluate patterns and relationships in information, ideas, and structures;
7. Evaluate the accuracy of information and the reliability of its sources;
8. Organize data, information, and ideas into useful forms (including charts, graphs, outlines) for analysis or presentation;
9. Identify, analyze, and compare the institutions, traditions, and art forms of past and present societies; and
10. Apply acquired information, ideas and skills to different contexts as students, workers, citizens and consumers.

(B) Goal 2. Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom. Students will demonstrate within and integrate across all content areas the ability to—

1. Plan and make written, oral, and visual presentations for a variety of purposes and audiences;
2. Review and revise communications to improve accuracy and clarity;
3. Exchange information, questions, and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others;
4. Present perceptions and ideas regarding works of arts, humanities, and sciences;
5. Perform or produce works in the fine and practical arts;
6. Apply communication techniques to the job search and to the workplace; and
7. Use technological tools to exchange information and ideas.

(C) Goal 3. Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to recognize and solve problems. Students will demonstrate within and integrate across all content areas the ability to—

1. Identify problems and define their scope and elements;
2. Develop and apply strategies based on ways others have prevented or solved problems;
3. Develop and apply strategies based on one's own experience in preventing or solving problems;
4. Evaluate the processes used in recognizing and solving problems;
5. Reason inductively from a set of specific facts and deductively from general premises;
6. Examine problems and proposed solutions from multiple perspectives;
7. Evaluate the extent to which a strategy addresses the problem; and
8. Assess costs, benefits, and other consequences of proposed solutions.

(D) Goal 4. Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to make decisions and act as responsible members of society. Students will demonstrate within and integrate across all content areas the ability to—

1. Explain reasoning and identify information used to support decisions;
2. Understand and apply the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in Missouri and the United States;

3. Analyze the duties and responsibilities of individuals in societies;
4. Recognize and practice honesty and integrity in academic work and in the workplace;
5. Develop, monitor, and revise plans of action to meet deadlines and accomplish goals;
6. Identify tasks that require a coordinated effort and work with others to complete those tasks;
7. Identify and apply practices that preserve and enhance the safety and health of self and others;
and
8. Explore, prepare for, and seek educational and job opportunities.

(E) Communication Arts. In communication arts, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes proficiency in—

1. Speaking and writing standard English (including grammar, usage, punctuation, spelling, capitalization);
2. Reading and evaluating fiction, poetry, and drama;
3. Reading and evaluating nonfiction works and material (such as biographies, newspapers, technical manuals);
4. Writing formally (such as reports, narratives, essays) and informally (such as outlines, notes);
5. Comprehending and evaluating the content and artistic aspects of oral and visual presentations (such as story-telling, debates, lectures, multimedia presentations);
6. Participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas; and
7. Identifying and evaluating relationships between language and culture.

(F) Fine Arts. In fine arts, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of—

1. Process and techniques for the production, exhibition, or performance of one (1) or more of the visual or performed arts;
2. The principles and elements of different art forms;
3. The vocabulary to explain perceptions about and evaluations of works in dance, music, theater, and visual arts;
4. Interrelationships of visual and performing arts and the relationships of the arts to other disciplines; and
5. Visual and performing arts in historical and cultural contexts.

(G) Health/Physical Education. In health/ physical education, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of—

1. Structures of, functions of, and relationships among human body systems;
2. Principles and practices of physical and mental health (such as personal health habits, nutrition, stress management);
3. Diseases and methods for prevention, treatment, and control;
4. Principles of movement and physical fitness;
5. Methods used to assess health, reduce risk factors, and avoid high risk behaviors (such as violence, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use);
6. Consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technology on safety and health); and
7. Responses to emergency situations.

(H) Mathematics. In mathematics, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of—

1. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; other number sense, including numeration and estimation; and the application of these operations and concepts in the workplace and other situations;
2. Geometric and spatial sense involving measurement (including length, area, volume), trigonometry, and similarity and transformations of shapes;
3. Data analysis, probability, and statistics;
4. Patterns and relationships within and among functions and algebraic, geometric, and trigonometric concepts;
5. Mathematical systems (including real numbers, whole numbers, integers, fractions), geometry, and number theory (including primes, factors, multiples); and
6. Discrete mathematics (such as graph theory, counting techniques, matrices).

(I) Science. In science, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of—

1. Properties and principles of matter and energy;
2. Properties and principles of force and motion;
3. Characteristics and interactions of living organisms;

4. Changes in ecosystems and interactions of organisms with their environments;
5. Processes (such as plate movement, water cycle, air flow) and interactions of earth's biosphere, atmosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere;
6. Composition and structure of the universe and the motions of the objects within it;
7. Processes of scientific inquiry (such as formulating and testing hypothesis); and
8. Impact of science, technology, and human activity on resources and the environment.

(J) Social Studies. In social studies, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of—

1. Principles expressed in the documents shaping [*constitutional democracy in*] **the government of the United States**;
2. Continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States, and the world;
3. Principles and process of governance systems;
4. Economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand);
5. The major elements of geographical study and analysis (such as location, place, movement, regions) and their relationships to changes in society and environment;
6. Relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions; and
7. The use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, documents).

AUTHORITY: sections 160.514 and 161.092, RSMo [(1994)] Supp. 2014. This rule previously filed as 5 CSR 50-375.100. Original rule filed Oct. 25, 1995, effective May 30, 1996. Moved to 5 CSR 20-200.260, effective Aug. 16, 2011.

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost public entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

*NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Attention: Sharon Helwig, PO Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480. To be considered, comments must be received with thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*

Title 5 – DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Division 20 – Division of Learning Services
Chapter 200 – Office of College and Career Readiness

ORDER OF RULEMAKING

By the authority vested in the State Board of Education under sections 160.514 and 161.092, RSMo Supp. 2014, the State Board of Education withdraws a proposed rule as follows:

5 CSR 20-200.260 Academic Standards is withdrawn.

A notice of proposed rulemaking containing the text of the proposed rule was published in the *Missouri Register* on March 2, 2015 (40 MoReg 225-226). This proposed rule is withdrawn.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: The State Board of Education received ten (10) comments on the proposed amendment. All comments were against the proposed change, but for different reasons. Eight (8) of the responses requested different wording, and two (2) responses requested no change at all. In addition, a 9-12 social studies work group legislated by House Bill 1490 is currently working on expectations to be completed by October 1, 2015.

RESPONSE: As a result, the State Board of Education is withdrawing this rulemaking.

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 426
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
TELEPHONE (573) 751-2108
FAX (573) 751-2146
ED.EMERY@SENATE.MO.GOV



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CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

March 10, 2015

Sharon Helwig, Ph.D.
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

RE: Public Comment on Amendment to Rule 5 CSR 20-200.260

Dear Dr. Helwig:

On October 17th, 2014 I sent a letter to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requesting a change in the terminology contained in the Social Studies portion of the Show-Me Standards. The standards currently read:

*In Social Studies, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of: 1. principles expressed in the documents shaping **constitutional democracy** in the United States.*

As stated in my previous letter, the term "constitutional democracy" is a flagrant misrepresentation of the "constitutional republic" on which our nation was founded.

While I appreciate the visit to my office by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on January 8th, 2015 to explain the proposed rule change, I cannot support the change after giving it much consideration.

The new standard being proposed for social studies now reads:

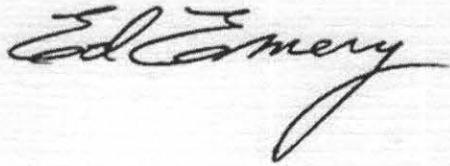
*Principles expressed in the documents shaping [constitutional democracy in] **the government** of the United States;*

This terminology is not incorrect, but it is seriously lacking. The change refuses to clarify the system of government the United States uses. If our teachers are to be equipped to teach our students the truth about our nation, the standards to which they teach should provide an accurate and descriptive account of what system of government the United States utilizes. By leaving the standard vague, it leaves open the possibility of a teacher unknowingly providing students with wrong information. After all, if the

MAR 13 2015

If there are questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact my office at 573-751-2108 or ed.emery@senate.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Emery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Ed Emery

Longley, Teri

From: Helwig, Sharon
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:53 PM
To: Longley, Teri
Subject: FW: Proposed Change to Social Studies Standard

Did I send this to you to print and add to our collection?

Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

From: Mary Byrne [<mailto:mary.byrne53@att.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:25 PM
To: Helwig, Sharon
Subject: Proposed Change to Social Studies Standard

Dr. Helwig,

I have read the proposed change to the Social Studies Standard published in the March 2, 2015 Missouri Register:

*Principles expressed in the documents shaping [constitutional democracy] **the government** of the United States.*

The suggested replacement language is vague and does not directly link to Article IV Section 4 of the U. S. Constitution which states, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, . . ."

If the people writing the Show-Me standards knew the specific form of government of the United States was, they would not have written "constitutional democracy" in the standard in the first place. Correct information in our standards should not be ambiguous. Therefore, our form of U.S. government as identified in the U.S. Constitution should be clearly identified in the Missouri standard.

I would like to go on record stating that the standard should read, "Principles expressed in the documents shaping the Republican Form of government of the United States."

Thank you,

Mary R. Byrne, Ed.D.
Social Studies 6-12 Work Group Member

Dear Ms. Helwig,

3-27-15

MAR 30 2015

Below is my response to DESE regarding the proposed change to the Missouri Social Studies standards.

My personal opinion is the suggested replacement language is vague and does not directly link Article IV Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution which states, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government,"

If the people writing the Standards knew what the government of the United States was, they would not have written "constitutional democracy" in the standard in the first place, therefore, our form of government should be clearly identified in the Missouri Standard.

I suggest that the standard should read, "Principles expressed in the documents shaping the Republican Form of government of the United States."
Thanks, Ronald Reiter

Longley, Teri

From: Helwig, Sharon
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 8:41 AM
To: Longley, Teri
Subject: FW: My Comments on Proposed Amendment to One of the Missouri Social Studies Show-Me Standards
Attachments: Comments on Rule to Change Show-Me Standard - p. 2.pdf; Comments on Rule to Change Show-Me Standard - p. 1.pdf

Another comment to put in collection on proposed rule.

Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

From: Warren Solomon [whsolomon@mchsi.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:56 PM

To: Helwig, Sharon

Subject: My Comments on Proposed Amendment to One of the Missouri Social Studies Show-Me Standards

Dear Sharon

Bill Gerling informed me about the rule being proposed to amend one of the Missouri Social Studies Show-Me Standards. I can see from the information below regarding the amendment that you are the person to whom comments should be sent:

NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Attention: Sharon Helwig, PO Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480. To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the Missouri Register. No public hearing is scheduled.

I have included my official comments on the subject both in this message and also in PDF format for your information. I hope it is helpful. Do feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Warren

P.S. Here are my comments below. (The PDF version has my signature on it if you need that.)

March 22, 2015

Sharon Helwig
Assistant Commissioner

Dear Dr. Helwig,

Because of my unique perspective regarding Missouri's Social Studies Show-Me Standards, I feel a special responsibility to comment on a proposed rule that would modify one piece of Missouri's Show-Me Standards. In the rule, shown immediately below this paragraph, the words in brackets ("constitutional democracy in") would be removed from the text to be replaced by the words in bold type ("the government of").

(J) Social Studies. In social studies, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of—

1. Principles expressed in the documents shaping [constitutional democracy in] the government of the United States;

2. ****

Jason Kander, Secretary of State, The Missouri Register, March 2, 2015, p. 226
(<http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/current/v40n5/v40n5a.pdf>).

I happen to be the person who chaired the sub-committee that drafted Missouri's Social Studies Show-Me Standards. The sub-committee consisted of highly respected and recommended teachers and district social studies coordinators from all parts of the state. These were people who were chosen to work on the committee because of their expertise in United States and world history, in political science/civics, in economics, and in geography. The sub-committee worked over a year on the standards, considering many options regarding what to include and exclude. Much time was spent honing the language of the standards. Once the standards were drafted, DESE held regional meetings throughout the state to get teacher input on the standards. Finally, the standards were examined and approved by the State Board of Education (January 18, 1996).

Two years later, additional committee work was carried out to draft "Content Specifications for Statewide Assessment By Standard: Social Studies," which was published on April 13, 1998. Those specifications were also discussed in regional meetings.

As I clearly recall, not once in the process of developing and reviewing the language of the standards and content specifications did any teacher, school administrator, or State Board member raise a question regarding the appropriateness of using the term "constitutional democracy."

The fact is that "constitutional democracy" is not a radical term to use when describing the government of the United States. According to Merriam Webster's Dictionary, which may be found on the Internet, the word "democracy" is a noun referring to a government in which "the supreme power is held by the people," and the word "constitutional" is an adjective that refers to "being in accord with a constitution of a state or society."

The sub-committee that drafted the Show-Me Standards recognized that our national government and our state governments do indeed have constitutions that govern the behavior of officials in their legislative, executive, and judicial branches and that the supreme power is held by the people through the franchise and through other means as protected by the United States Constitution, which includes in its amendments a Bill of Rights and additional amendments, which have made such changes as abolition of slavery, expansion of the right to vote, equal protection of the laws at all levels of government, and the direct election of Senators to the United States Congress. Ours is a system of government where the aim is, as Lincoln said, a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Ours is a government which has as a major ideal a respect for the dignity of its people.

We are not a simple direct democracy that meets in town meetings. Instead, we are a complex representative democracy that operates under a constitution that includes such principles as separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, majority rule, minority rights, and due process of law. Our system is not perfect—it sometimes departs from its ideals—but the goal of our system has evolved over time to have the governments in our nation be consistent with democratic principles. Those principles are important. They give citizens, regardless of their points of view, the opportunity to engage in the marketplace of ideas and politics, allowing them to have influence on the direction of their society in peaceful ways in accordance with the rule of law.

To replace “constitutional democracy” with “the government of” has the potential to cause teachers to reduce their emphasis on the ideals of our political system and to emphasize more a focus directed only on the structure and processes that are found in our political system.

Such a move, I am convinced, would have been strongly opposed by the highly competent people who served on the sub-committee that drafted the Social Studies Show-Me Standards and would be opposed by thoughtful citizens who believe our federal and state governments should be held accountable to the ideals of constitutional democracy, which may be found in such documents as the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble of the United States Constitution, Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream Speech,” as well as in landmark Supreme Court decisions.

For those reasons stated above, I sincerely hope that the proposed change in the Social Studies Standard will be rejected.

Sincerely,

Warren Solomon. Ph.D., DESE Social Studies Curriculum Consultant (1974-2001)

Longley, Teri

From: Helwig, Sharon
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:42 PM
To: Longley, Teri
Subject: FW: Constitutional Democracy

I think we need to print the responses for now as they come in. There may not be many, but we'll have them in case we need to print for the board.

Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

From: w.gerling@mediacombb.net [w.gerling@mediacombb.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:49 PM

To: Helwig, Sharon

Subject: Constitutional Democracy

I am opposed to the change of the Standard: 1. Principles expressed in the documents shaping [constitutional democracy in] the government of the United States.-because it fails to indicate what type of governmental system is present in the United State. The term " Constitutional Democracy" better illustrates our system because the United States was established under a constitution which has placed limits on government power and also has accommodated the expansion of our democratic system to people who were originally excluded-minorities, women, Native Americans, and 18 year olds.

Not only that but this term encompasses many of the principles that are found in the Course-Level and Grade-Level Expectation of Missouri Learning Standards.

Some of these principles are:: popular sovereignty, majority rule and minority rights, limited government, separation of powers and checks and balances, and due process of law. These characteristics are the same as identified by the Center for Civic Education.

<http://www.civiced.org/resources/publications/resource-materials/390-constitutional-democracy>

Longley, Teri

From: Tonya Long <tonyarenay@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:43 AM
To: Helwig, Sharon
Cc: Longley, Teri
Subject: Re: Social studies standard - The U.S. is a republic

Categories: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Thank you. I'm not sure if this is needed or not but it looks like I gave you an incorrect phone number at the end of my letter. My phone number is 816-686-3128. If that information is unnecessary then please disregard.

Tonya Long

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." - William Pitt

> On Apr 2, 2015, at 7:55 AM, Helwig, Sharon <Sharon.Helwig@dese.mo.gov> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your comment. It has been added to summary information that will be given to the State Board in April.

>

> Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tonya Long [<mailto:tonyarenay@yahoo.com>]

> Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 8:17 PM

> To: Helwig, Sharon

> Subject: Social studies standard - The U.S. is a republic

>

> Ms. Helwig,

>

> I currently serve as a parent appointee to the K-5 social studies work group in Missouri. I have been battling with my school district for several years after I noticed my children were being taught that the United States was a democracy. My district sent me to the state's standards for social studies and was disturbed by what I read. I have worked to have the error corrected and was please to see Senator Emery's letter to the state board. I was less than please to see the proposed change by DESE. To call the United States anything less than a republic is preposterous. Our founders knew well there wasn't much difference in the kingdom they lived under and a democracy. A kingdom has one master while a democracy has many masters. Neither represents the Liberty our founders fought for and secured for their posterity. To ensure future generations understand the founding of is great nation and the eternal vigilance that is required by each of her citizens, we must teach foundational truths. For the state of Missouri to teach anything less leads me to believe this state wishes to teach our children how to be good subjects instead of free thinking, independent individuals possessing natural rights.

>

> I commend the state board and DESE for admitting the error in teaching over the past 20+ years however I do not believe the proposed change is a correction to the error. Missouri has spent more than twenty years teaching her students false information. To just omit the falsehood, which in this case is teaching that the US is a democracy, is

shallow and robs our students of the rich heritage we have inherited. Missouri mustn't simply remove the falsehood, she must own her mistake and begin teaching the truth. The United States of America is a republic.

>

> "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

>

> Our job is to teach every generation of students the truth. Why would we want to rob our posterity of their natural born rights as free men and women?

>

> Tonya Long

> 816-686-3137

>

> "Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

- William Pitt

Longley, Teri

From: Helwig, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:51 AM
To: Longley, Teri
Subject: FW: Principles expressed in the documents shaping the Republican Form of government of the United States.

Another comment

Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

From: Van Harvey [mailto:vanharvey2@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 6:47 PM
To: Helwig, Sharon
Subject: Principles expressed in the documents shaping the Republican Form of government of the United States.

A year or two ago, I was asked to provide some research assistance in addressing an error in the MO Social Studies documents, regarding some anachronistic references to our form of government being a "constitutional democracy", when it is properly referred to, as per our government's defining document, as a Republic. See Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution for reference :

"Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government..."

http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/tocs/a4_4.html

It would be legitimate to expand upon that, such as referring to 'Constitutional Republics', or 'Constitutional Representative Republics', but it is not legitimate to formally refer to our form of government, especially in Educational materials, as a 'Democracy'.

It is true that in our founding era, the terms 'Democracy' and 'Republic' were often used almost interchangeably when referring informally to the general spirit of self governance, but when making more formal references, especially when proposing actual measures for government, the term 'Republic' was the term usually used. Obviously, as this was long before the creation of either of our current two political parties, there was no party politics behind the choice (nor should there be today), they made that choice because the actual meanings and failures of each form of government were well understood. It's a simple fact of record.

Even DESE seemed to acknowledge the fact, though perhaps a bit petulantly, as I've found that a number of our social studies curricular documents were in fact updated, though apparently none too carefully, by means of a mass 'Find & Replace', from 'Constitutional Democracy', to 'Republic'. The result of that change was that in our standards, educational standards mind you, our form of government is often currently referred to, ungrammatically, as 'Principles of Republic', or still as 'Constitutional Democracy'.

State Sen. Emery recently took the concern over the misuse of these terms a step further than we had, in a letter to DESE, insisting, properly, that,

"The term "constitutional democracy" is a flagrant misrepresentation of the principles of the constitutional republic in which we live."

He went on to note that:

"The differences between the structures of government are clear. In a constitutional democracy, the majority has complete control through democratic elections without any protection for the minority. Conversely, a constitutional republic consists of the people electing representatives to serve on their behalf ruled by law with checks and balances established to protect the rights of the minority."

In order to provide clarity for educators that teach Missouri children and to ensure Missouri students are taught the proper governmental structure of the United States - a governmental structure that has made our nation exceptional - we urge you to correct this error in the Show-Me Standards."

DESE's response has been to propose making the change like this (the text within the brackets to be replaced by what follows them):

"1. Principles expressed in the documents shaping [constitutional democracy in] the government of the United States;"

So... while they acknowledge that they had made an error, they want to correct that error in reference to a very specific form of govt, by changing it, from 'constitutional democracy', to '-government'.

From Democracy, to government.

This feels a bit like it might if after pointing out to a printer that they'd made an error in listing your address as, say, "#1 Riverbend Drive", when you actually live on "#1 Riverview Drive", and after pointing that out, they offered to make the following correction:

"Oh, we see our mistake, tell you what, we'll correct your address to show that: "you live in a house".

What would you say to that?

What sort of correction is this? It is difficult to see this correction as anything other than a rather blatant evasion. Republic is the correct word, please use it.

I had no problem accepting that an error had been made in using 'Democracy', though a careless (and probably ideological) error - it's still a mistake, understandable and forgivable. The fact that some efforts to correct it have been made shows that it has been recognized as an error. But to refuse to correct that error by naming it as it correctly, demonstrably, legally, is, a Republic (if you can keep it), is appalling.

To refer to the government of the United States as 'the government of the United States', as if that adds some educational clarity, is ridiculous. Democracy is the wrong term, Republic is the correct term, please, in the name of Education, use the correct term.

Thank you,
Van Harvey
St. Charles, MO

Longley, Teri

From: Helwig, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:59 AM
To: 'Eric & Julie Thomas'
Cc: Longley, Teri
Subject: RE: Principals expressed in the documents shaping the Republican form of government,of the United States

Thank you for your comment. It has been added to summary information that will be given to the State Board in April.

Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric & Julie Thomas [<mailto:ejthomas@charter.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Helwig, Sharon
Subject: Principals expressed in the documents shaping the Republican form of government,of the United States

It would a grave error to knowingly misrepresent history. Now that we understand the blue placemat has a flaw referring to our form of government as a democracy. I would agree that we should change the language to reflect what Article 4 section 4 of the constitution states. That we do indeed have a representative Republic. Thank you Julie Thomas History standards 6-12.

Sent from my iPhone

Longley, Teri

From: Helwig, Sharon
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Longley, Teri
Subject: FW: PROPOSED AMENDMENT
5 CSR 20-200.260 Academic Standards.

Another comment.

Sharon (Hoge) Helwig, Ph.D. | Assistant Commissioner | Office of College and Career Readiness | 573.751.2660 | dese.mo.gov

From: john adams [johniebravisimo@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:22 PM

To: Helwig, Sharon

Subject: PROPOSED AMENDMENT

5 CSR 20-200.260 Academic Standards.

Ms Helwig,

A colleague mentioned this amendment, and suggested I submit my comments before the deadline.

If I am reading the bill correctly, it seems to clear up previous ambiguity in the Missouri educational standards studies. Particularly History lessons. I believe I could support this Amendment if it will serve to further specify America's founding documents such as: Article IV Section 4 of US Constitution, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a Republican Form of Government..."

Thank you for allowing comments on the topic, be shared and considered.

John R Adams

APR 01 2015

Sharon Helwig
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

RE: Proposed change to the Missouri Social Studies standards;

Dear Ms Helwig,

I am writing to request that the proposed change in the Missouri Register, page 226, Letter (J) 1 be changed to read as follows, "Principles expressed in the documents shaping the Republican Form of government of the United States under Article IV Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution."

Thank you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T C Christman Jr".

Thomas C Christman Jr
3050 Chemin DeLa Vallee
Barnhart, MO 63012-2207