

**Proposed Template for Materials to be submitted to the State Board of Education in
preparation for the Public Hearing to be held on October 27, 2014**

The Work Groups (WGs) should expect to present, at a minimum, the following information in writing prior to the public hearing.

I. Statement of WG objective (specific to each WG)

The goal of the K – 5 SS WG is to amend, modify, decrease, and/or augment our current K – 5 SS GLE's to reflect a set of grade level expectations that all Missouri students should be able to know, understand, and do. We are using the current standards as a starting place and using the expertise found within the workgroup, other state's standards, and the NCSS' documents to help guide us in this process. Currently we have written a statement loosely based off of NCSS regarding our vision of the teaching of the social studies in K – 5: The primary purpose of elementary social studies in the state of Missouri is to help young people gain fundamental understanding of the founding events and documents of our country, so that they can make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an independent world (draft).

II. Description of WG organization – Chair, Vice Chair, etc. and whether the WG is full

Currently there are three openings listed on the DESE website. Ten of the thirteen appointed members are attending the meetings. At least two of the thirteen members who are listed as appointees have resigned from the workgroup. We welcomed a new parent to our group on day 6. One member tried to help him catch up the remainder of the day. I am sure that it was very hard to track everything. We did our best to explain all of the educational jargon as we proceeded. Not having all members of the group and having members being replaced once the workgroup started makes the process harder. Our aim is to not have anyone feel left out or disenfranchised because lack of experience or knowledge in curriculum work.

Organization: Chair—Craig Carson, Ed.D., from Ozark R-VI Schools; Vice Chair—Patrick Fisher, from Rockwood School District

III. Progress report describing consensus of the WG regarding what has been accomplished and the remaining issues to be addressed. This could include a consensus estimate of percent completion.

Unfortunately with the confusions of the purpose and scope of these groups and the multiple voices giving guidance, there was some time spent discussing the 7 content standards and how they might need to change to reflect the current reality of education. According to the group's understanding of the guidance sent out by Representative Bahr's office on October 6, the 7 content standards are not to be changed. These discussions were not wasted. They did help group members to better explore the social sciences in their depth and breadth. That

knowledge is now being applied to revising the current Grade Level Expectations. We are approximately 15% done.

IV. Description of remaining steps to completion and the WG plan for completion

The WG will meet next on December 4 – 5. Our goal is to have this project complete by the October deadline. We currently plan to meet every six to eight weeks for two days at a time. We are systemically working through the content strands and grade level expectations.

V. Identification of obstacles to overcome or tools/information required to assure success

Our workgroup would have preferred to keep the facilitator. Dr. Conway did a terrific job establishing decorum, protocols, and providing the materials needed to start this process. We collectively hated to lose her. As the chairperson, I believe that it will be difficult to both facilitate the group and share within the group at the same time. We are thankful that DESE has agreed to continue to provide someone who can do the role of note taker. If there is any way that some type of reimbursement can be provided to some of the group members who are not receiving any reimbursement from their state associations, school districts, special interest groups, or other means would be greatly appreciated. As you know, this is hard work.

VI. Any other issues important to the particular workgroup

There is a general concern that the State Board of Education will wholesale reject the standards written by the workgroups. The trust issues right now, propagated by multiple sides, have created landmines that can halt the committee's work as we try to move forward. Among the original WG members, we are building trust among each other. Unlike some of the ugliness that has been reported in other WG's, there is a positive regard throughout our meetings. As a committee we would encourage the State BOE to be as transparent as possible with the processes that will be used to ratify, amend, or nullify the work of the committees. As the chairperson, I have known a few of you on a professional basis for upward to 15 years. I can easily trust you to do what is in the best interest of our students, teachers, parents, and tax payers. However, for those who are intimately involved in this process who are as equally passionate about great standards, student success, and local control as I am, they have not built the kind of trust between the State BOE and themselves. I am hopefully confident that you will help reflect the general angst of the public around both sides of this issue: trashing the current standards and using the current standards. Teachers are in a pickle, thus instruction and assessment will suffer as fear and anxiety remain over these next two years.