



# *News Release*

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## **Michigan Department of Education Accepting Applications for Social Studies Taskforce**

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LANSING – The Michigan Department of Education announced yesterday it is accepting applications for volunteers to serve as members of a Social Studies Taskforce. Members will be charged to review and act upon the feedback from the Online Public Survey and the Listen and Learn sessions that have been held since the middle of May. The goal of the Taskforce is to update the Michigan Social Studies Standards to ensure that the proposed standards are “fewer, clearer, and higher.” The resulting standards, when approved, will provide improved guidance for Michigan teachers and administrators as part of MDE’s plan to become a Top 10 education state in 10 years.

The Social Studies Taskforce will be comprised of six subcommittees: K-4 standards, 5<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>/High School United States History & Geography, 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/High School World History & Geography, Economics, Civics/Core Values, and a Bias Review team. Each subcommittee will be chaired by two of the original social studies authors to maintain continuity in the process.

The Social Studies Taskforce members will be selected based on a set of criteria that include educational background, teaching experience, ethnic/cultural diversity, and geographic diversity. In addition to social studies educators, school administrators and academicians, the membership will be comprised of students, teachers, parents, and community members so that the voice of multiple Michigan stakeholders is represented.

The Taskforce will hold an organizational meeting on October 15, 2018 in Lansing, Michigan. The final meeting of the Taskforce will be held December 19, 2018 also in Lansing, Michigan. Up to three additional meetings will be held between those dates to complete the work. Since the timeline is short, MDE asks that applicants hold the date of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Those interested in serving on the Taskforce are asked to submit an [online application](#), including a one-page summary of their resume/Curriculum Vitae, no later than **noon on Wednesday, October 3, 2018**. The Social Studies writers will meet, review the applications and establish the sub-committees based on the criteria. Finalized lists will be reviewed by Department personnel for final approval. Upon approval, the members of the sub-committees will be notified and invited to join the Taskforce. Those not selected will be informed of the decision with a list of those serving on the Taskforce.

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