

Subject: Social Studies Program 306.46

School Approval Standard:
Ed 306.46

This is the ninth in a series of Technical Advisories issued by the Department to clarify the new School Approval Standards.

Table 306-1 Required Program Areas and Credits

Required Program Areas	Credit(s)
Arts education	3 credits
Business education	5 credits
Information and communication technologies	½ credit
Family and consumer science	3 credits
World languages	5 credits
Health education	½ credit
Physical education	2 credits
Technology education	4 credits
English	6 credits
Mathematics	6 credits
Science	5 credits
Social studies	5 credits

Ed 306.46 Social Studies Program.

(a) Pursuant to Ed 306.26, the local school board shall require that a social studies program in each elementary school provides:

(1) Opportunities for students to:

- a. Acquire knowledge and understanding of civics, economics, geography, and history in a program consistent with RSA 193-C:3, III; and
- b. Become familiar with the skills of decision making, data gathering, and critical thinking;

(2) Pursuant to RSA 186:13, opportunities to practice citizenship in the school and community;

(3) Pursuant to RSA 189:11, instruction in history and government and the constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire; and

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(4) Opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for effective participation in the life of the community, the state, the nation, and the world.

(b) Pursuant to Ed 306.26, the local school board shall require that a social studies program in each middle school provides:

(1) Opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding of civics, economics, geography, and history in a program consistent with RSA 193-C:3, III;

(2) Pursuant to RSA 186:13, opportunities to practice citizenship in the school and community;

(3) Pursuant to RSA 189:11, instruction in history and government and the constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire; and

(4) Systematic instruction and activities designed to enable students to:

a. Acquire and use information to clarify issues and seek solutions to societal problems;

b. Value and apply critical thinking, interpersonal relations, and decision-making skills in both individual and group problem-solving situations;

c. Participate in and contribute to the well-being of the home and school as well as the larger communities of the state, nation, and world; and

d. Become familiar with careers in history, the humanities, and the social sciences.

(c) Pursuant to Ed 306.27, the local school board shall require that a social studies program in each high school provides:

(1) Opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and modes of inquiry in the areas of civics, economics, geography, world history, and United States and New Hampshire history in a program consistent with RSA 193-C:3, III, including the related areas of sociology, anthropology, and psychology;

(2) Opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for effective participation in the life of the community, the state, the nation, and the world;

(3) Pursuant to RSA 186:13, opportunities to practice citizenship in the school and community;

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- (4) Courses totaling at least 5 credits in social studies comprised of offerings in each of the following areas:
- a. At least one credit in national and state history pursuant to RSA 189:11;
 - b. At least one credit in world history or global studies;
 - c. At least one credit in geography;
 - d. At least ½ credit in United States and New Hampshire government/civics;
 - e. At least ½ credit in economics; and
 - f. At least one credit, which may be interdisciplinary or integrated, to be chosen from the areas of geography, economics, world history, civics/government, state or national history or both, or behavioral studies; and
- (5) Systematic instruction and activities designed to enable students to acquire the skills of critical thinking, effective decision making, and human relations.

Department Comment:

Note that this chart concerns what schools need to offer, as opposed to Table 306-2, which concerns what students need to take to graduate.

The five credits required to be offered in Table 306-1 are the five credits referred to in 306.46 (c4). It is required that these be offered by a school during the course of a student's normal high school attendance.

In (c1), the point is made that in addition to the required subjects, schools may also offer electives such as sociology, anthropology, and psychology. Whereas the Curriculum Framework provides guidance for each of the required subjects, it does not for potential electives.

In (c4), each of the items a.-f. must be available to the student at least once during the course of his/her high school career. Note that while under 306.27 the student must pass one-half credit of World History or Global Studies or Geography to graduate, the school must offer one full credit of World History or Global Studies, and one full credit of Geography during the student's course of study.

Any course credited toward fulfillment of (c4f) *can* be credited toward (c4a.-e.).

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