

ALL PRINCIPALS/APS/TEACHERS: Social Sciences- Pacing Guide Updates for the 2015-16 School Year
Category: For Your Information

Audience: All Principals/APs, All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [Flyer-Social Sciences Pacing Guides 2015-16.pdf](#)

To provide information about the updates/edits to the K-12 pacing guides for Social Sciences for the 2015-16 school year.

- The Department of Social Sciences has updated pacing guides for required courses and grade levels.
- Teachers may access the most recent versions of the guides by visiting the department's website: <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net> and/or by logging onto the Learning Village through the employee portal.
- The following information provides a summary of the updates/edits to the pacing guides for Social Sciences:
- **Social Sciences Pacing Guide Edits/Updates for All Required Courses and Grade Levels:**
 - Florida Standards for English/Language Arts: Updates to instructional activities related to the Florida Standards for English/Language Arts have been completed.
 - NGSSS-SS: The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Sciences remain the driving force of instruction.
 - Essential Benchmarks: Highlighted in the K-12 Social Science pacing guides in order to provide teachers with information regarding the most essential information associated with each grade level/course.
 - Technology Resources: Discovery Education and NBC Learn links have been updated.
 - 2015-16 Academic Year Dates: Suggested dates for completing instruction on each major topic are included that correlate to the 2015-16 academic year.
 - Planning for Instruction: To assist teachers in planning for instruction, the following support documents are also included: "Year at a Glance" and "Timeline."
- **Social Sciences Pacing Guides Edits/Updates for Specific Grade Levels and Courses:**
- Grades K-5
 - Elementary Instructional Minutes: As a reminder, the required instructional minutes for Social Sciences in grades K-1 are 60 minutes a week and in grades 205, 120 minutes a week.
 - Elementary Civics: Recognizing the importance for students to acquire Civic content knowledge and positive dispositions, the K-5 Social Science pacing guides place special emphasis on Civics related benchmarks.
 - Civics in a Snap Lessons: Developed in collaboration with The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, these provide teachers with a stand-alone lesson plan, designed to be implemented in approximately 15 minutes, in order to provide instruction that infuses

Civic knowledge and dispositions encouraging both literacy and Civic benchmarks/standards mastery. Please note: when the “Civics in a Snap” icon appears in the K-5 pacing guides, simply click on the icon, which is located next to the benchmark pertaining to Civics, and teachers will be directed to a separate webpage where Civics in a Snap lessons are located.

- Grade 6 World History, Grade 7 Civics, Grade 8 U.S. History, Grade 9 World History, and Grade 11 U.S. History
 - History/Social Science Labs: Recognizing that complex text and mastery of complex historical information is accomplished by emphasizing the skills of analyzing primary and secondary source documents, pacing guides for the aforementioned grade levels have been updated with History/Social Science Labs. History/Social Science Labs are an engaging and rigorous instructional approach designed to require in-depth learning and thinking on the part of the student guided by an essential question, analysis of primary or secondary source documents, and ending in a rigorous writing assignment or other rigorous learning task. When the “History Lab” icon is found in the pacing guides, click it and teachers will be directed to a page where they can find ready made History/Social Science labs.
- Grade 4 Florida History, Grade 6 World History, Grade 7 Civics, Grade 8 U.S. History, and Grade 12 Economics
 - Financial Literacy: Recognizing the importance of students to learn about money and develop their financial literacy skills, at the end of each nine weeks’ in the above mentioned grade levels/courses’ pacing guides is an addendum highlighting resources for teachers to use to infuse the instruction of financial literacy into the curriculum. Please note: for 7th grade Civics, financial literacy instruction must ONLY take place once students take the required 7th grade Civics End of Course Assessment.
- Grade 4 Florida History, Grade 5 U.S. History, Grade 8 U.S. History, and Grade 11 U.S. History:
 - Local History Resources: Recognizing that Miami-Dade County is full of a rich and diverse history; lessons have been developed, emphasizing key points in Miami’s local history, and embedded in the aforementioned grade levels/courses’ pacing guides. When the “Local History” icon below is found in the pacing guides, click it and teachers will be directed to a page where they can find stand-alone and rigorous lessons that emphasize Miami’s local history.
- Grade 7 Civics, Grade 8 U.S. History, and Grade 9 World History
 - Digital Convergence: To support the District’s convergence to digital teaching and learning and increase student engagement, digital learning projects have been embedded in the aforementioned grade levels/courses’ pacing guides to assist teachers in maximizing the use of digital learning tools. When the “Digital Convergence” icon is found in the pacing guides, click it and teachers will be directed to a page where digital learning resources and projects are posted. Detailed lessons are also available outlining step by step instructions for the first 5 days of instruction. Teachers are encouraged to utilize these lessons that emphasize best instructional practices for digital teaching and learning- especially the lesson on digital citizenship.
- Grade 11 U.S. History: EOC assessed benchmark lessons have been updated for the first nine weeks. Remaining EOC assessed benchmarks will be updated throughout the 205-16 academic year.
- M.S. and S.H.S. Law Studies Programs:
 - Law Studies: A curriculum framework emphasizing the use of three research-based and effective law studies programs can be found under the “Pacing Guides/Lessons” tab on the Department of Social Sciences website:

<http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net>. Teachers who utilize the We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution, Mock Trial, and Project Citizen programs can access the framework to assist them in instructional planning.

- Program descriptions for additional law programs can also be found on this page.
- In addition to updates to the K-12 Social Science pacing guides, the Department of Social Sciences has recently updated the look of its website. All teachers are encouraged to visit <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net> to see what is new.
- Please see the attached flyer providing highlights to the Department of Social Sciences new instructional resources for the 2015-16 academic year posted on the website.
- Should you need additional information or have questions, please contact Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky, Executive Director, Department of Social Sciences, rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net or see the contact information below.

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