



News Release

Contact: Martin Ackley, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, (517) 241-4395
Bill DiSessa, Spokesperson, (517) 335-6649

MDE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON UPDATED SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS *Information Sessions Scheduled Across Michigan*

August 19, 2015

LANSING – The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed updates to the state’s science and social studies content standards for Michigan’s K-12 public schools in a series of information sessions being held through September by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) throughout the state.

“We want to make ourselves available to the public to offer comment on what will be Michigan’s updates standards for social studies and science,” State Superintendent Brian Whiston said today. “We’re inviting educators, parents, students and other members of the public to share their thoughts with us.”

These proposed updates to the state standards have been developed and reviewed by science and social studies education experts from Michigan and around the nation, including K-12 teachers, and college and university professors. MDE will use the public comment to help finalize the proposed standards before they are adopted and integrated into local classrooms, with professional learning supports for local educators.

“These are the overall statewide content standards in science and social studies,” Whiston said. “How they are taught in the classroom curriculum in each school is a decision made by each local school district across the state.”

Each public comment session features a presentation on the proposed science and social studies standards, along with comments from local educators; school and community business leaders; and other organizations on their understanding of the proposed standards. Sessions include multiple breakout periods for the public to understand each set of standards in more detail.

The schedule of public comment sessions follows:

Date	Time	Location	Location / Phone
August 26, 2015	3:00 – 6:00 pm	Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD and Math/Science Center	315 Armory Place Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (906) 632-3373
August 27, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Seaborg Math/Science Center, Northern Michigan University	2805 Presque Isle Ave. Marquette, Michigan (906) 227-2002
Sept. 1, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Michigan Science Center	5020 John R St. Detroit, Michigan (313) 577-8400
Sept. 3, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Central Michigan University Science, Mathematics, and Technology Center	CMU Bovee University Center Terrace Rooms Mount Pleasant, Michigan (989) 774-4387
Sept. 14, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Gerald R. Ford Museum	303 Pearl St. NW Grand Rapids, Michigan (616) 254-0400
Sept. 17, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center	171 Michigan Ave. Battle Creek, Michigan (269) 965-9440
Sept. 21, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District	1101 Red Drive Traverse City, Michigan (231) 922-6200
Sept. 28, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Genesee Intermediate School District	2413 W. Maple Ave. Flint, Michigan (810) 591-4400
Sept. 30, 2015	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Michigan Historical Center and Library	702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, Michigan (517) 373-3559

Over the past year, MDE has made several presentations to the State Board of Education (SBE) on the proposed science and social studies standards and their impact on students and educators. MDE also has briefed legislators and other stakeholders on the proposed standards over the past seven months.

There is no registration necessary for the sessions. MDE also is collecting feedback from online surveys at www.michigan.gov/science and www.michigan.gov/socialstudies. Details about the standards also are available at those sites.

For questions on the respective science and social studies standards or sessions, please contact MDE-science@michigan.gov or MDE-socialstudies@michigan.gov.

#