

Date: December 28, 2012

To: Kerstin Forsythe Hahn

Minnesota Department of Education

From: Kristy Swanson

Executive Budget Officer

Subject: M.S. 14.131 Review of Department of Education's Proposed Revised Permanent Rules

Related to Academic Standards for Social Studies

Background

The Minnesota Department of Education seeks to revise current *Minnesota Rules* relating to academic standards for social studies. Pursuant to M.S. 14.131, the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget has been asked to help evaluate the fiscal impacts and fiscal benefits these changes may have on local units of government.

Evaluation

On behalf of the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, I have reviewed the proposed rules and related Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) to explore the potential impact these changes may have on local governments.

The proposed rule revises the existing state academic standards for social studies education and satisfies M.S. 120B.023 requirement that social studies academic standards be revised during the 2010-11 school year and implemented by the 2013-14 school year.

The SONAR identifies a list of stakeholders that were included in the standards revision and rules review process. A Social Studies Standards Review Committee was created; composed of K-12 social studies teachers, postsecondary instructors, parents, and business and community representatives. There remains some small controversy with stakeholders that disagree with the new standards. One such group is comprised of a few Minnesota Legislators that hired external reviewers that contradicted the feedback provided by the stakeholders and the review committee. Plans are underway by states to develop "Common Core-type" standards in science and social studies, but these are not available yet and were not considered in the 2010-11 review of the social studies standards.

Those that would bear the fiscal impact of the proposed rule includes school districts and charter schools. The SONAR identifies school districts and charter schools as the local units of government affected by the proposed rules revisions. School districts are required to have social studies academic standards in place. Implementation costs are typically mitigated by the standard six-to-seven year curriculum adoption cycle that many school districts follow. Per M.S. 120B.023 the social studies academic standards are to implemented during the 2013-14 school year. Because social study standards were created in 2003 and in 2006 the legislature passed M.S. 120B.023 which outlines the revision

cycle, school districts and charter schools should be already planning on revising the social studies academic standards in 2013-14. While there will be a cost to the local units of government they were foreseeable costs and are required to adhere to Minnesota statute.

In my opinion, the proposed changes will not impose a significant unforeseen cost on local governments.