



October 24, 2012

Senator Gen Olson, Chair  
Senator LeRoy A. Stumpf, Ranking Minority Party  
Senate Education Committee

Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, Chair  
Senator Sandra L. Pappas, Ranking Minority Party Member  
Senate Higher Education Committee

Representative Pat Garofalo, Chair  
Representative Mindy Greiling, Ranking Minority Party  
House Education Finance Committee

Representative Sondra Erickson, Chair  
Representative Carlos Mariani, Ranking Minority Party Member  
House Education Reform Committee

Legislative Coordinating Commission  
72 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: In The Matter of the Proposed Rules of the Department of Education Governing Social Studies Academic Standards, Minnesota Rules, 3501.1300-3501.1345; Revisor's ID Number 4078

Dear Legislators:

Executive Summary: the Department of Education intends to adopt rules on social studies academic standards. Minnesota students need strong skills in all academic areas, including social studies, in order to be prepared for college, careers and civic life. The social studies disciplines of citizenship and government, economics, geography, and history (state, U.S. and world) are all important in giving students a solid understanding of the modern world in which they live, as well as the tools that they need to be contributing members of their communities—from local to global. Increased globalization, diversity, and political pressures are all forces which impact students across the state. A strong foundation in the social studies disciplines is necessary for helping Minnesota students develop greater understanding of how these forces have shaped, and continue to shape, the modern world.

Minnesota's proposed social studies standards, while rigorous, set the minimum expectations for K-12 learners throughout the state. Schools may teach more, but not less, than these standards. The standards provide flexibility that allows local school districts to determine the curriculum, instructional methods, assessment tools, and learning environments that will best

help their students achieve the standards.

These proposed rules are guided by a vision of citizenship, college and career readiness. They reflect interdisciplinary connections at each grade level, and rigorous knowledge and skills that will prepare Minnesota's students for active participation in postsecondary education, professional work and civic life. These rules are necessary to ensure that Minnesota's social studies academic standards reflect best practices in social studies education throughout the state. The proposed academic standards in social studies will provide valuable guidance to Minnesota schools that will help them implement consistent, high quality social studies education to all K-12 students.

Minnesota Statutes, section 14.116, states:

**"14.116 NOTICE TO LEGISLATURE.**

When an agency mails notice of intent to adopt rules under section 14.14 or 14.22, the agency must send a copy of the same notice and a copy of the statement of need and reasonableness to the chairs and ranking minority party members of the legislative policy and budget committees with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the proposed rules and to the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

In addition, if the mailing of the notice is within two years of the effective date of the law granting the agency authority to adopt the proposed rules, the agency shall make reasonable efforts to send a copy of the notice and the statement to all sitting legislators who were chief house and senate authors of the bill granting the rulemaking authority. If the bill was amended to include this rulemaking authority, the agency shall make reasonable efforts to send the notice and the statement to the chief house and senate authors of the amendment granting rulemaking authority, rather than to the chief authors of the bill."

We plan to publish a Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules in the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 State Register and are now mailing the Notice under section 14.14 or 14.22. Due to the significant length of the SONAR it has not been included in this mailing. The SONAR is available on MDE's social studies rulemaking website at the following webpage:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/Rule/ActiveRule/SocStudies/index.html>.

As required by section 14.116, the Department is sending you a copy of the notice and the Statement of Need and Reasonableness. For your information, we are also enclosing a copy of the proposed rules.

If you have any questions about these rules, please contact me at 651-582-8583.

Cordially,



Kerstin Forsythe Hahn, J.D.  
Rulemaking Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Education

Enclosures: Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules-Dual Notice

CC: Legislative Coordinating Commission