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# **Social Studies Program Review**

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Melrose Public Schools  
October 2013-June 2015

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# Key Questions

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The team developed the following guiding essential questions used throughout the self-study phase of the process:

- To what extent does social studies/history prepare students for college and career readiness? For 21<sup>st</sup> century skills?
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# Key Questions

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- What is the curriculum in social studies/history? How is it aligned vertically and horizontally?
  - What are the best instructional and assessment practices being used in social studies/history? How are they being implemented?
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# Key Questions

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- What resources are currently available in social studies/history and what is needed?
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# Process

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- Review of curriculum, materials, and assessment for grades K-12
  - Surveys of parents, teachers, and students
  - Site visit
  - Action planning
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# Elementary Overview of Findings

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- Curriculum and assessments not clearly outlined.
  - Some connections to ELA have been made. There is great potential for clearer connections to research, reading, and writing.
  - Materials vary a great extent from grade to grade and building to building.
  - Recent efforts in curriculum mapping and professional development will improve resources available to teachers.
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# Grade 6-8 Overview of Findings

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- Common assessments and clear research sequence established.
    - District Determined Measures
    - DBQs/Document based questioning used in curricula
    - Mid-year and final exams
  - Grade 6 has online textbooks. Grade 7-8 use supplemental materials.
  - Draft curriculum maps will be completed, which will require continuous revision.
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# Grade 9-12 Overview of Findings

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- Common sequence of curriculum and assessments exist within core courses.
- Electives curriculum maps will need revision.
- Multiple course offerings with a focus on 21st research and thinking skills.
- Strengthen opportunities for students to participate in Advanced Placement.
- Culture of collaboration through Common Planning Time (CPT).
- Research sequence will continue to be strengthened.



# Recommendations

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- Create curriculum maps and common assessments in identified areas of need.
  - Identify core instructional practices for social studies.
  - Strengthen connections to ELA through curriculum, instruction, and assessments.
  - Identify materials for identified areas of need.
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# Statement of Impact

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This work will better prepare students...

- For 21st century learning and careers
  - For the next generation of standards and assessments
  - To be active participants in government and global citizens
  - To be active learners
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# Implications

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- Materials will be needed to support identified areas of need.
  - In order to integrate technology, teachers will need access to the hardware and infrastructure.
  - Professional development funds will need to be allocated to support identified needs.
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# Questions

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