

MEMORANDUM

To: District Superintendents, Principals, and Curriculum Coordinators

From: Jean Massey, Associate Superintendent
Office of Secondary Education

Date: December 11, 2014

Subject: Social Studies Courses for Middle School

During the August 2013 meeting, the Mississippi State Board of Education granted approval for 8th grade students to earn 0.5 Carnegie Unit credit for the *Mississippi Studies* course and 0.5 Carnegie Unit credit for the *Introduction to World Geography* course beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Districts are allowed to enroll 8th grade students in these two courses which were previously available only to high school students. Students in the 8th grade will earn the Carnegie Unit credit for each of these courses, provided the course content is identical to the course content offered at the high school level.

Beginning with school year 2015-2016, the following options are available for Social Studies course sequence for middle school:

Option	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade
1	World Geography and Citizenship	World History from Pre-historic Era to the Age of Enlightenment	U.S. History from Exploration through Reconstruction	Mississippi Studies / Introduction to World Geography
*2	World History from Pre-historic Era to the Age of Enlightenment	*Compacted Seventh Grade U.S. History from Exploration through Reconstruction and Citizenship	Mississippi Studies (One semester .5 Carnegie Unit) / *Compacted Introduction to World Geography (One semester .5 Carnegie Unit)	World History from The Age of Enlightenment to the Present
**3	World Geography and Citizenship	World History from Pre-historic Era to the Age of Enlightenment	U.S. History from Exploration through Reconstruction Option to add Mississippi Studies (One semester .5 Carnegie Unit) and/or World Geography (One semester .5 Carnegie Unit) as elective choices	World History from The Age of Enlightenment to the Present

*NOTE: For Option 2, the standards for the World Geography and Citizenship course must be integrated into the U.S. History and the Intro to World Geography courses taught in the 7th and 8th grades, as outlined in the attached documents.

**NOTE: For Option 3, U.S. History Exploration to Reconstruction must be taught in the 8th grade. MS Studies and Geography are taught in addition to the U.S. History course as separate courses.

If you have any questions, please email Heather Morrison at heather.morrison@mde.k12.ms.us.

C: Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent
Dr. Kim Benton, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Paula Vanderford, Director of Accreditation

Attachment