

# RHODE ISLAND • U.S. HISTORY



GRADE  
**N/A**

SCORES  
Content and Rigor **N/A**  
Clarity and Specificity **N/A**

TOTAL SCORE  
**N/A**

As of 2010, Rhode Island has chosen not to implement statewide social studies standards.

“In accordance with a Rhode Island statute on civic education,” the state Department of Education notes on its website, “in 2006 the Rhode Island Department of Education developed the Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations (GSEs) for Civics & Government and Historical Perspectives/Rhode Island History (commonly known as the Civics GSEs) for K–12 implementation in all districts.” These GSEs, as close as Rhode Island presently comes to social studies standards, “*are not intended* to represent the full curriculum for instruction and assessment locally, nor are they meant to simply replace existing social studies curriculum” (emphasis added). Most importantly, they explicitly do *not* attempt to lay out specific history content or sequence.

Since Rhode Island expressly declares its GSEs *not* to be general social studies or history standards, it would be inappropriate to review them as such.

Teachers and local school systems are instead referred to outside standards for aid in developing course content. “Prior to the development of the Civics GSEs,” the website notes, “the *Standards-Based Guide for Social Studies Programs in Rhode Island Schools* was created to aid districts in developing their social studies curriculum [*sic*].” This guide, prepared in 2001, directs readers to various outside resources and seeks to offer conceptual guidance on implementing “standards-based” curricula. “Since no state standards have been adopted for social studies as a whole, districts are encouraged to use the standards listed within the *Standards-Based Guide* to supplement the Civics GSEs when developing curriculum for areas that the Civics GSEs do not cover (e.g., history, economics, psychology, geography).”

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

N/A