

Social Studies Guidance for 2017-2018

What is changing?

In state law, House Bill 3218 (2016) called for the discontinuation of End-of-Instruction (EOI) assessments as Oklahoma begins a new focus on preparing students for the demands of college and career in the coming decades. As a result, state assessments are improving to meet these new demands. This guidance deals specifically with Oklahoma's **U.S. history assessment**.

What is the reason for the change?

The *Every Student Succeeds Act*, or ESSA, is a federal education law that applies to public schools in every state. ESSA includes federal requirements for student assessments in science, mathematics, and reading and language arts. Social studies is a state-required assessment, not a federally required assessment, and as such, there is greater flexibility in how the assessment is revised and administered. Oklahoma plans to use this flexibility to design and implement a U.S. history assessment that reflects the Oklahoma Academic Standards, with a renewed emphasis on civics and government.

Who is impacted?

Oklahoma law requires that all students take a U.S. history assessment "not less than once during the grade span of nine through twelve" ([70 O.S. § 1210.508\(E\)\(1\)\(c\)](#)). While all Oklahoma students must take a U.S. history assessment at least once during their high school careers, this year the state will not administer an assessment for this subject. Instead, we will begin the important work of revising social studies standards according to the regular standard review cycle. Many districts administered a U.S. history assessment last year; therefore, school districts will not be required to do so in 2017-2018.

We recognize that there are some districts with course sequences that offer U.S. history in 11th or 12th grade. Please contact the OSDE Office of Assessments to discuss options that minimize disruptions and best fit your students' needs.

What assessments are required for students in grades 10-12 during school year 2017-2018?

All public school students must take the ESSA-required assessments in English language arts (ELA), math, and science. To fulfill these requirements, this year all grade 11 Oklahoma students will take a college- and career-ready assessment: Part I—consisting of either the ACT or the SAT—will fulfill the ELA and math assessment requirements, and Part II will consist of the science content assessment.

