

Re: Course Elective Updates
Date: October 2, 2026

The purpose of this document is to request a change in the naming and sequencing of two Social Studies elective courses currently titled Street Law I and Street Law II.

Rationale: Street Law was first developed and introduced in the early 2000s using the Street Law textbook and curriculum developed by Street Law, Inc. This course ran and was taught by multiple teachers until my arrival to the district in 2014, where I have been the exclusive teacher of this course since that time. Since then, the course has changed and grown to also include a second level, titled Street Law II. The courses at that time had overlap and served as a distinct continuation of the Street Law curriculum.

Starting in 2025, Street Law I no longer used the Street Law textbook and a move was made to the current textbook titled "Introduction to Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and the Courts." On my own syllabus, I have begun to refer to the course as Street Law I: Introduction to Criminal Law as this is more fitting to the current course's content. Street Law II did not run in the 2025-26 school year, but this year my syllabus refers to the course as Street Law II: Introduction to Civil and Constitutional Law. No longer are either classes utilizing the specifically branded Street Law curriculum or textbook.

Proposal: As both courses have moved away from the curriculum developed by Street Law, Inc, I would like to propose that the Street Law branding be removed, and both courses are now referred to as Introduction to Criminal Law and Introduction to Civil and Constitutional Law. Along with these changes, I would also ask that the prerequisite attached to the previously named Street Law II be removed as these courses are no longer directly sequenced. Along with the change in name and no longer having a prerequisite, I would also ask that both courses be offered from 9-12 as these courses offer career education opportunities to students relating to law related fields of employment.

Updated Course Descriptions (as currently presented on current syllabi)

Introduction to Criminal Law: In this course, students will explore the foundations of the American criminal justice system, including the history of law enforcement, the structure and function of the courts, the correctional system, and juvenile justice. Through case studies, class discussions, and interactive activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of how these components work together to uphold the law and protect society. Students will also examine current issues and challenges facing the justice system, encouraging critical thinking about fairness, equity, and reform.

Introduction to Civil and Constitutional Law: In this course, students will explore the foundations of civil and constitutional law, including negligence, intentional torts, liability, individual rights, and the limits of government power. Through landmark court cases, case studies, class discussions, and interactive activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of how the legal system resolves disputes and protects individual rights. Students will also examine current legal issues and challenges involving civil liability and constitutional protections, encouraging critical thinking about justice, individual rights, and the role of law in American society.