



River Forest
Public Schools

Social Studies Updates

Roosevelt Middle School
May 2026

Purpose of Tonight's Update

- Status of core resource options and evaluation
- Summarize process thus far
- Share brief overview of core resources in review
- Share next steps for the Social Studies team



D90 Social Studies Vision: Draft

Our social studies classrooms foster **respect, curiosity,** and **collaboration** as students explore **history, geography, economics,** and **civics** through **inquiry**. By connecting **diverse perspectives** to their own lives and **cultural identities**, students grow as **informed, empathetic citizens** ready to **contribute** thoughtfully to their **communities** and the **world**.

Research:

National Council for the Social Studies
American Institutes for Research (AIR)
Ed Reports
Knowledge Matters Campaign

Standards/Frameworks:

IL Social Studies Standards
IL Social Studies Mandates
3C Framework
CCSS ELA Standards for History and Social Studies



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Paper Evaluation

Screening Tool from the University of Illinois

- Part 1: Resource Description/Information
- Part 2: Resource Overview
 - Alignment to standards and IL SS mandates
 - Support for diverse learners
 - Editorial professionalism
 - Inquiry-based learning
- Part 3: Inclusive Checkpoints
 - Opportunity for content area writing
 - Integration of diverse cultural and social backgrounds
 - Practice critical analysis; research and content area writing
 - Connection to local community

PART 2: RESOURCE OVERVIEW

Indicator	very much	somewhat	not at all	not sure	Evidence and/or how you might modify:
2.1. Resource is developmentally appropriate for learners (includes varying and appropriate modes of teaching and learning, such as play-based, hands-on, inquiry-based, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2. Resource sufficiently connects to one or more of the Illinois Mandated Units of Study for Social Science .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.3. Resource sufficiently connects with one or more Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science and is aligned with one or more of the Domains of Competency in Social Studies .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.4. Resource includes perspectives and/or identities (e.g., racial/ethnic, physical or cognitive ability status, gender, spiritual orientations), that have been erased or are often not included in social studies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.5. Resource provides (or can be amended to include) multiple ways for students of differing abilities and knowledge or skill levels to engage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.6. Resource provides opportunities for expression of, and sharing about, student experiences and perspectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.7. Resource provides appropriate support, accommodations, and/or modifications for numerous student populations that will support their active participation in learning (e.g., bilingual, English Learners, IEP/504 accommodations, advanced learners).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.8. Materials clearly demonstrate editorial professionalism (e.g., sources are properly cited and free of grammatical and factual errors) and appropriate language (e.g., enslaved not slave, inclusive pronouns).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.9. Resource supports guided and/or free inquiry .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Core Resource Options: Highlights

Publisher and Resource	Status and Rationale
iCivics Education: Government, Democracy, Elections, Voting, , Laws, Branches of Government, Citizenship, Influence	Currently in use in small amounts, holding as option <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Free, digital format● Flexibility to use by lesson, topic, grade, and/or standard as needed
Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) <i>Social Studies Alive, History Alive, Civics Alive</i>	Pilot Possibility <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Engaging, fosters connections and relevance● Variety of lesson delivery options● Includes multiple scaffolds to support variety of student needs● Content area writing embedded into each lesson● Aligned to IL standards
McGraw Hill: <i>United States History, World History, Exploring Geography, Exploring Civics</i>	Possibly Eliminating <ul style="list-style-type: none">● More of a traditional instructional approach● Less engaging
National Geographic: <i>American Stories, World History, World Cultures and Geography, Civics and Citizenship</i>	Pilot Possibility <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Engaging and interactive platform● Variety of reading levels and languages available● Organized and easy to navigate● Inquiry and project based lessons● Customizable assessments

Next Steps

- Carefully analyze each resource: benefits and possible limitations
 - Consider options for 5th grade and continuity
 - Draft possible year long scope and sequence/unit map
 - Draft potential pilot plan; maintain continuity of instruction for students
- Identify pilot programs
- Design pilot process
 - *Pilot in school year 2026-2027*
- Plan additional professional learning for pilot resource implementation and use of evaluation tool



Thank You!

Questions?



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