

**DATE:** May 28, 2025

**TO:** Kristen Quesada, Churchill High School  
Andrew Pesci, Franklin High School  
Pete Mazzoni, Stevenson High School

**FROM:** Lindsay Rousseau, 7-12 ELA & Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Textbook Recommendation for the High School Humanities Courses

This memo recommends the adoption of the physical copy and digital platform licenses of *Cultures & Values: A Global View of the Humanities Volume 1 and 2 (Tenth Edition)* by Cengage Publishing for the high school Humanities course. The details below provide more information about the textbook review process and information to support the recommendation for adoption.

### **Committee Members**

Stevenson: Nancy Thursam (Humanities Content Area Leader)

### **Recommended Materials for Adoption**

- *Cultures & Values: A Global View of the Humanities Volume 1 (Tenth Edition)*, Cengage Publishing, Copyright 2026
- *Cultures & Values: A Global View of the Humanities Volume 2 (Tenth Edition)*, Cengage Publishing, Copyright 2026
- *Cultures & Values: A Global View of the Humanities Volume 1 (Tenth Edition)* digital platform licenses/access
- *Cultures & Values: A Global View of the Humanities Volume 2 (Tenth Edition)* digital platform licenses/access

Cost proposal is attached.

### **Summary of Course(s)**

Humanities is a yearlong course offered during 12th grade students, that satisfies the fourth year language arts requirement for attaining a high school diploma from the state of Michigan and Livonia Public Schools. In first semester, students explore human nature and leadership qualities through the study of literature, art, music, architecture, philosophy, theater, science, sculpture, and dance. Beginning with early human cultures and advancing through the 14th century, students will experience the arts through various projects, readings, viewings, and interactions. The second semester of Humanities students will explore human nature and leadership qualities through the study of literature, art, music, architecture, philosophy, theater, science, sculpture, and dance. Beginning with the 15th century and advancing to present day, students will experience the arts through various projects, readings, viewings, and interactions. Throughout this course analytical writing is emphasized, in addition to oral presentations and research.

### **Overview**

The current textbook used in Humanities are *Cultures & Values: A Global View of the Humanities, (7th Edition)* by Cengage Publishing, copyright 2009. Because the current texts were published so long ago, the texts are not aligned to the ELA Common Core State Standards, which were adopted as the state of Michigan ELA standards in 2010. Another issue with the current editions of the texts is that, because of the age of the textbooks, online access is unavailable to teachers and students so updated material has not been available for many years.

### **Evaluation Process**

The committee reached out to all of the publishers that publish high school English Language Arts textbooks and Cengage Publishing is the only publisher who has a textbook for high school use; the other publishers don't publish a Humanities text at all, or they publish Humanities texts for college/university use only and will not sell the textbooks to K-12 school districts. The committee likes the content, format, timeline, and layout of their current Humanities texts, which are an earlier edition of the new textbooks we're requesting to purchase, by Cengage Publishing and therefore are comfortable with moving forward with the newest edition of the textbooks and online resources/materials to use. The updated version of the textbook is now broken into two volumes, one for first semester and one for second semester.

**Professional Development Needs**

- Online platform training
- Time as a district committee to go through the new materials

For additional information on the adoption recommendation, contact Lindsay Rousseau at x42594.

CC

Theresa O'Brien

Kevin Etue

HS Social Studies Department Chairs