



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

February 6, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: 9.4

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

BACKGROUND: The Minnesota Academic Standards for Social Studies have been under revision for the past year. At this time the Standards are going to hearing prior to going before the state legislature for approval. The work around the standards has brought about significant changes in the topics to be taught at each grade level. With the standards set to be approved in the upcoming legislative session and implementation set for the 2013-14 school year, school districts around the state are working to create new courses and sequences of topics for the upcoming school year.

PROCESS: The Social Studies Department has been working with Kate Stower, social studies specialist on loan to MDE from the MN Historical Society. Kate has been meeting with a network of teachers from across the state to discuss ways to implement the new standards, particularly at the grade 6 through grade 9.

In the revision of the standards, four core disciplines are integrated into each grade level/course, with particular emphasis given to one of the areas. The four core areas are Citizenship and Government, Economics, Geography and History. For the 2013-14 school year, the main areas of focus for grades 6-9 are:

Grade 6 – Minnesota Studies

Grade 7 – U.S. Studies (1800 – Present)

Grade 8 – Global Studies

Grade 9 – Citizenship & Government; Geography

Course outlines are currently not available as the department is working to revamp these areas. We are looking for your approval of our work for these required courses.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Proposed Changes to Social Studies Curriculum.