

Since the founding of this Nation, education and democracy have gone hand in hand. The Founders believed a nation that governs itself, like ours, must rely upon an informed and engaged electorate. Their purpose was not only to teach all Americans how to read and write but to instill the self evident truths that are the anchors of our political system.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Nebraska State Board of Education
Social Studies Standards – December, 2012
Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Nebraska Social Studies Standards is to teach our children to become young patriots who have an intellectual understanding of the genius of our country's founding principles and who feel an emotional connection to our nation. Achieving this purpose requires teaching Nebraska students to become responsible citizens who are prepared to preserve, protect and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and in the world.

As responsible citizens of the U.S. and Nebraska, our students must:

- Master and be able to use knowledge of the history of the United States, Nebraska, western civilization, eastern civilizations and ancient civilizations (Historical Perspective);
- Master and be able to use spatial patterns on earth (Geographic Perspective);
- Master and be able to use knowledge of the foundations and form of American federalism, our representative democracy, and American politics (Civic Perspective);
- Master and be able to use knowledge about the efficient allocation, production, distribution, and consumption of scarce resources and the advantageous role of free market economics in such allocation (Economic Perspective).