



MAINE

***Maine's standards are in flux and changing rapidly, according to representatives from the state. The following information may be dated.*

CERTIFICATION

Maine issues Type A and Type B certificates to its teachers according to its Title II report. These certificates are known respectively as provisional and professional certificates. Maine also issues a master certificate. A targeted need certificate can be obtained as well. For initial teacher certification, Maine requires the PPST in reading (176), writing (175), and math (175).

Elementary Certification

Elementary teachers in Maine are authorized to teach students in grades kindergarten through eight. Academic requirements for elementary certification include graduation from an accredited baccalaureate program approved for elementary education teachers. This program must consist of at least 50 percent liberal arts classes and a distribution of 6 hours in each of the content areas (math, English, science, social sciences, foreign languages). The candidate must also have the formal recommendation of the institution or candidates can earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a liberal arts distribution and at least six hours in each of four content areas (math, English, science, and social sciences). Thirty-three hours of professional instruction must take place. Twelve hours of content area methods must be taken in all of the following subjects: math, reading, science/health, and social studies.

Middle-Level Certification

Holders of a middle school certificate are authorized to teach social studies in grades 5–8. Candidates must possess a valid provisional or professional Maine certificate (K–8, 7–12, or K–12) and must have a minimum of 18 semester hours in the 7–12 endorsement area and a minimum of 18 hours in any other 7–12 endorsement area or any K–12 endorsement area. Professional courses appropriate for teachers of adolescents are also required.

Secondary Certification

Candidates seeking certification for 7–12 social studies must fulfill one of the following requirements:

- ❖ graduation from an accredited baccalaureate program approved for the education of social studies teachers which includes a major in one of the social sciences and the formal recommendation of the institution; or
- ❖ a minimum of 36 semester hours that includes all of the following:
 1. geography;
 2. U.S. history;
 3. economics;
 4. sociology;
 5. government or political science;
 6. a minimum of 6 hours in world history;
 7. a minimum of 3 hours in psychology, anthropology, and archeology; and
 8. a minimum of 3 hours from global studies (international relations, environmental issues, world politics, comparative economic systems, world cultures, regional studies, current world studies, and comparative religions).

Professional education courses are also required.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

In its Title II report, the state of Maine refers readers to MRSA 05-071 Ch. 115, Certification of Educational Personnel: Standards and Procedures. The standards to which Maine refers are the certification requirements (course work) necessary to obtain certification. No separate content standards for history or social studies exist.

Standards for Students

The content standards for social studies in Maine, the Learning Results, are organized around the content areas of civics and government, history, geography, and economics. Other disciplines in the social sciences have been deemed important but not essential for social studies education.

In Maine’s social studies Learning Results, an overall explanation of what students will know and be able to do in relation to each specific content area is first listed. Then specific themes are listed and specific students results are written under each theme. In history, the following rationale is used:

- ❖ Students will learn to analyze the human experience through time, to recognize the relationships of events and people, and to identify patterns, themes, and turning points of change using the chronology of history and major eras. In interpreting current and historical events, students will evaluate the credibility and perspectives of multiple sources of informa-

tion gathered from technology, documents, artifacts, maps, the arts, and literature.

Key themes include

- ❖ chronology;
- ❖ historical knowledge, concepts, and patterns; and
- ❖ historical inquiry, analysis, and interpretation.

Under each theme a specific standard is listed. Expectations are then presented for the elementary grades pre-K–2, grades 3–4, middle grades 5–8, and secondary grades. Examples are included after the standard and at the secondary level specific content suggestions are made referring to eras in U.S. and world history. This same approach is used for the standards in civics and government, economics, and geography.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

**At the high school level, Maine is moving from credit- to standards-based graduation requirements.

At least 16 credits are required to earn a high school diploma in the state of Maine. School districts may add other requirements for their students. In social studies, students are required to earn

- ❖ One credit in American history and government. This comprehensive course must include instruction in the importance of voting, the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, the Constitution of the United States, and the Declaration of Independence;
- ❖ One credit in social studies is required, which may include instruction in economics, geography, political science, history, government, sociology, anthropology, and psychology; and
- ❖ One-half credit in Maine studies is required if not taken in grades 6, 7, or 8. The course shall include Maine history and geography, the natural, economic, and industrial resources of the state, and the cultural and ethnic heritage of the state.

Exit Exam

No information has been located.

ASSESSMENT

The Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) is designed to measure students' achievement in the Maine Learning Results. Students take tests in grades 4, 8, and 11 in English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, and social studies. The assessments in social studies consist of multiple choice, short answer, and constructed response questions.

