



Rapid City Youth City Council

City of Rapid City, South Dakota

MEMORANDUM

TO: South Dakota Board of Education Standards
South Dakota Social Studies Standards Revision Commission
South Dakota Department of Education

FROM: Rapid City Youth City Council

DATE: 14 December 2021

RE: Inclusion of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards in South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards

1. Purpose of Memorandum

- 1.1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, the South Dakota Social Studies Standards Revision Commission, and the South Dakota Department of Education with a youth perspective from the Rapid City Youth City Council.
- 1.2. This memorandum comes from a discussion originally held during the November 2021 Rapid City Youth City Council meeting and continued during the December 2021 meeting; regarding recent removal of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards from the original Social Studies Standards Workgroup recommendation and the subsequent October 2021 restart of the revision process.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. During the regularly scheduled Rapid City Youth City Council meeting held on the 9th of November 2021, agenda item twelve (12) was brought forward in response to the recent actions taken by the South Dakota Board of Education regarding the removal of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards from the original Social Studies Standards Workgroup recommendation. A civil and balanced discussion among the members of the Rapid City Youth City Council highlighted the insights of community youth as well as explored the pedagogy and application of educational content standards. The Rapid City Youth City Council all shared a concern for providing standards that are inclusive and accurate in representing culture and history. As the discussion ended a motion was made on the floor to share the youth's voice on this matter via a memorandum with the South Dakota Department of Education and responsible parties for this matter. The original motion passed unanimously. After drafting this memorandum, it was brought forward for approval at the regularly scheduled Rapid City Youth City Council meeting held on the 14th of December 2021. Of the Rapid City Youth City Council Members present, fifteen (15) were in favor of the motion to approve this memorandum and none (0) were opposed. There was no dissenting concern to be cited.

3. Proposed Action

- 3.1. Member of the Rapid City Youth City Council raise this memorandum as a point of information to the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, the South Dakota Social Studies Standards Revision Commission, and the South Dakota Department of Education.
- 3.2. Members of the Rapid City Youth City Council encourage the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, the South Dakota Social Studies Standards Revision Commission, and the South Dakota Department of Education to consider the impact of any proposed action or inaction on the education of youth in this state.

4. Discussion

- 4.1. The Rapid City Youth City Council discussed the importance of Social Studies standards, specifically the importance of teaching culture and history. To better inform our collective future.
- 4.2. The Rapid City Youth City Council discussed the integral importance of Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota history to South Dakota and U.S. history. The Oceti Sakowin history and culture is U.S. history and culture.
- 4.3. The Rapid City Youth City Council discussed that many having grown up in the Paha Sapa area do not know the valuable culture and rich history of their own community. The history contained within this discussion is collectively everyone's history.
- 4.4. The Rapid City Youth City Council considered the implications of content standards and their binding requirements for classroom instruction. In full consideration of the classroom implications, it was established that; providing space and time for the inclusion of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards would benefit all courses across curricular domains.
- 4.5. The Rapid City Youth City Council raised concern that omitting this important and living part of U.S. history, would set precedence for similar acts of overlooking content.
- 4.6. The Rapid City Youth City Council identified that removing Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards from Social Studies content standards, also removes support for professional development. Removing the insurance of quality delivery and implementation.
- 4.7. The Rapid City Youth City Council discussed the depth of Oceti Sakowin culture and tradition, offering values that support overall learner agency and positive growth.
- 4.8. The Rapid City Youth City Council leaned into the current controversy recognizing that it has made so many more aware of this crucial missing component in the standards.
- 4.9. The Rapid City Youth City Council highlighted that the discussion on Oceti Sakowin culture and history is the single most important agenda item before them.

5. Implications

- 5.1. The Rapid City Youth City Council recognizes that at this moment actions have been taken to restart the revision process and seeks to offer this memorandum as insight to be considered in that process.
- 5.2. The Rapid City Youth City Council finds that removal of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards from the original proposal of the workgroup, is of great seriousness, requiring us all to act as a supportive community.
- 5.3. The Rapid City Youth City Council encourages those collectively responsible for this matter to ensure that Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards are included in authentic and meaningful ways in the South Dakota Social Studies Standards.
- 5.4. The Rapid City Youth City Council offers support, perspective, and remains available to the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, the South Dakota Social Studies Standards Revision Commission, and the South Dakota Department of Education in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted this 14th day of December 2021.

RAPID CITY YOUTH CITY COUNCIL



Sadie Colbeck, Chair



Kiran Kelly, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:



Tae Swanson, Secretary