**Text of Commissioner’s email on April 13:**

**Timeline for further review of the Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies**

The proposed Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies (KASSS) will be available for review and feedback during the 2015-16 school year. The draft standards will be available for further review on the KDE website by Wednesday, April 13. A link will be distributed to access the standards.

The timeline for the extended review process is as follows:
• Stakeholders will review and provide feedback through December 2015.
• The Social Studies content team will make revisions after the feedback is reviewed.
• The Kentucky Board of Education will consider the KASSS for the second reading in April 2016.
• The legislative committee review process will take place in late spring and summer of 2016.
• During the 2016-17 school year, the Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies, once approved, will be implemented.
• In the 2016-17 school year, Social Studies for elementary and middle school students will not be assessed.
• The End-Of-Course U.S. History exam will continue to be administered in 2015-16 and 2016-17 during this transition.
• The new social studies assessments for appropriate grade levels will be administered during the 2017-18 school year.

Questions can be directed to Associate Commissioner Amanda Ellis at amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov.

**April 2015 Social Studies Key Messages**

The proposed *Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation* ARE moving forward.

The Leadership Networks WILL meet in 2015-16 and will focus on highly effective teaching, learning, and assessment practices around the proposed Social Studies standards, emphasizing trying out, reflecting, and revising the supporting documents in order to develop the best possible program for K-12 social studies.

We have already responded to more than 2000 comments from focus groups and public online survey feedback, so we feel major suggestions have already been brought forward and addressed with this set of proposed standards.

 Feedback from Online Survey and Focus Groups:

* 1,595 responses were collected between November 3, 2014 and December 8, 2014.
* Percentages of respondents included: 38% KY Parents; 55% KY K-12 Social Studies Educators; 2% KY higher education educators; 19% KY K-12 non Social Studies educators; 32% KY citizens; 2% KY business/industry; 2% KY education partner/advocacy groups. (Note: respondents could check more than one category)
* 155 of 173 KY school districts were represented in responses.
* Range in agreement with the draft standards (“OK” as is) was approximately 75%-91% with an average across all levels/standards approximately 83%.
* The lowest rated standard was a Kindergarten standard dealing with scarcity in Economic Decision-making with an agreement rate of 75.64.
* A large number of comments expressed a need for professional learning and curriculum development related to the standards.

Revisions and Support Materials

* 52 grade level standards were revised based on the feedback.
* Storylines preceding each grade level page of standards were revised and enriched to better capture the vision and outcomes for each grade level.
* Currently, in draft form, are the following *companion* documents:
	+ Standards Glossary, containing key terms found in the standards.
	+ Literacy Connections Document, containing Common Core Literacy in History/Social Studies Standards for Grades 6-12.
	+ Curriculum Consideration Document, containing support for developing curriculum at each grade level.
	+ Sample High School Course Design Options, containing examples of traditional and non-traditional course pathways based on the high school social studies standards.