



**Saginaw Public School District K-12:  
High Quality Social Studies Instruction**



***Vision of high quality social studies instruction:***

1. Taught across disciplines, cuts across time and space, and connects to current events.
2. Involves the examination and understanding of personal and political views to develop well supported positions while respecting the values and beliefs of others.
3. Instruction includes building an understanding, appreciation, and practical application based on an examination of the overarching concepts.
4. Instruction includes direct instruction, modeling, collaborative and independent work, and real life application with a gradual release of power so students become independent in their active learning.
5. Students use well-reasoned arguments supported by factual evidence rather than personal opinion while debating controversial issues.
6. Teachers and students engage in reflective thinking and decision-making as events unfold during instruction.
7. Students will identify, analyze, and interact with credible sources and documents including maps, charts, graphs and tables.
8. Content is meaningful, relevant, and connected to students lives today and how it impacts the future.
9. Teachers will provide students with ample opportunity to interact with the content.
10. Teachers will provide students with the tools to become civic-minded and understand values and principles of American Constitutional Democracy.
11. Instruction includes a strong appreciation of diversity.

***During high quality social studies instruction, teachers are:***

Modeling content literacy strategies at each grade level. Best practices will include reading and writing responses to the content, annotation, document based questioning and facilitating authentic conversation, reflecting an appreciation for diversity.

***During high quality social studies instruction, students are:***

Sharing verbal and written responses following collaborative conversations, debate, and content reading. Sharing will reflect both facts and opinions based on thoughtful use of evidence, real-world ideas, and an appreciation for diversity.

***High quality social studies classrooms look like:***

Students are actively engaged in student driven conversations around their thinking and content exploration. The teacher is a facilitator of students' learning via text, authentic conversation, research, and evidence based decision making.