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Ways Your District Can Support Social Studies Teachers

With many schools using textbooks adopted five or more years ago, social studies teachers are looking elsewhere to find the content they need to create relevant lessons.

As a result, content gaps have been identified across multiple areas, including map skills, geography, citizenship/civics, current events and economic systems. Teachers are now using textbooks far less frequently than administrators believe they do, turning instead to alternative—and oftentimes unvetted—resources.



Here’s how you can help teachers select the best resources:

1 Develop a rigorous process for curriculum selection that relies on sourcing, contextualizing and corroborating to vet all outside and digital resources thoroughly.

2 Encourage teachers to make this research process transparent and model it for students.

3 Rely on resources from reputable and trustworthy providers, such as The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, The Smithsonian Institution, iCivics, Facing History and Ourselves or Zinn Education Project.

4 Invest in online resources that will weather social and cultural shifts.



Visit [Newsela](#) to find engaging, differentiated social studies content from world-trusted providers.