

Social Studies: Highly Qualified Guidance APPENDIX C

The following social studies areas are considered core academic subjects for NCLB: history, geography, economics, and government and civics. The state will consider individuals highly qualified for purposes of meeting the content requirements of NCLB if they meet **one** of the following options:

1. Test Option.

- a. High School. Teachers are considered highly qualified to teach in grades 9-12 if they pass the NTE or Praxis examination in the subject(s) they are teaching: history, geography, government, and economics, or the broad-field social studies test (if previously taken).
- b. Middle Grades. Social studies at the middle grades level is focused on history and geography. Teachers are considered highly qualified to teach in grades 7-8 if they pass any one of the following NTE or Praxis examinations: middle grades social studies or secondary tests in social studies, history, or geography.

Note: Please refer to the detailed test list for the specific acceptable tests for all core subject areas.

2. Major Option. Teachers are considered highly qualified if they have a major or have the equivalent of a major (24 hours) in any **one** of the following:

- a. History
- b. Geography
- c. Government and Civics
- d. Economics
- e. Social studies, including any combination of courses in history, geography, economics, and government and civics (see minimum hour requirements below to teach a specific subject in high school).

In addition, if a teacher has a major (or the equivalent) in one of the above areas:

- a. High School. To be considered highly qualified to teach another subject, teachers must have at least 18 hours in history to teach history, 9 hours in geography to teach geography, 9 hours in economics to teach economics, and 9 hours in government and civics to teach government to be considered highly qualified.
- b. Middle Grades. Social studies at the middle grades level is focused on history and geography. Therefore, new teachers seeking to become highly qualified in middle grades social studies should focus their course taking on history and geography. To be considered highly qualified to teach another subject, middle grades teachers must have the equivalent of a major (24 hours) in one of the five enumerated majors above to teach in either grade 7 or 8.

1. **Graduate Degree** in the content area.
2. **Advanced Certification or Credential**. National Board Certification (NBC) in

the content area, including broad-field.

3. **Evaluation Option.** The evaluation option is available only to existing teachers. Teachers are considered highly qualified if they demonstrate competence in the subject matter based on a highly objective uniform state standard evaluation. This option is under development by the state. (See section on Evaluation Option)

Note: A course that a school system offers as a substitute for a core academic area must be taught by a highly qualified teacher (i.e. Business Economics may substitute for Economics). See Appendix D for guidance on Substitute Credit Courses.