



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

North Carolina Department of Public
Instruction's Implementation of The
Founding Principles Act

*The Founding Principles Act SL 2011-273,
sec.2 (6) (HB 588)*

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North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Implementation of The Founding Principles Act

The Founding Principles Act SL 2011-273, sec.2 (6) (HB 588)

On June 23, 2011, the North Carolina General Assembly passed The Founding Principles Act (SL 2011-273) that directs local boards of education to require, as a condition of high school graduation, students to complete successfully a semester course, "American History I - The Founding Principles." Additionally, the Department of Public Instruction and local boards of education, as appropriate, are directed to provide "curriculum content" to support this semester course. Lastly, the Act directs the State Board of Education to align "any curriculum-based tests developed and administered statewide" to include the content expressed in the Act.

With the passage of The Founding Principles Act, the 2010 North Carolina Essential Standards for *American History I: The Founding Principles* have been aligned to reflect all of the content enumerated therein. Because the *American History I: The Founding Principles* Essential Standards have a 100% alignment with the content outlined in The Founding Principles Act, the standards were not revised. However, members of the NC DPI K-12 Social Studies section modified the 2010 NC Essential Standards document for *American History I: The Founding Principles* to demonstrate this alignment. This modification included changing the name of the course to reflect the name identified in the Act. The *Civics and Economics* course was also aligned to the content enumerated in The Founding Principles Act because this course provides a more in-depth study of the content outlined in The Founding Principles Act and will serve as reinforcement for *American History I: The Founding Principles*.

In March 2011, House Bill 48 was signed into law and eliminated statewide standardized testing in the public schools, except as required by federal law or as a condition of a federal grant. This included the elimination of the *United States History* End-of-Course test as well as the *Civics and Economics* End-of-Course test, both of which could have been used to measure student competence regarding the content outlined in The Founding Principles Act. Teachers may use the resources developed by the Bill of Rights Institute to access their students' progress.

In September 2013, NC DPI engaged in a contract with the Bill of Rights Institute (BORI) to develop course content to support implementation of *The Founding Principles Act*. The course content will consist of ten (10) complete instructional units that contain the following: pre-assessment; primary source analysis; written reflection; and document-based assessments. More specific details of the units are contained in Appendix E. The units will be ready for use during the 2014-2015 school year. Once the units are completed, NC DPI will work to provide professional development for teachers.

Attachments: Appendices A-E