



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 Implementation of The
Founding Principles Act

*The Founding Principles Act SL 2011-273
(HB 588), sec.2 as amended by SL 2015-
291 (SB 524) and SL 2019-82 (HB924)*

Date Due: October 15, 2019
Report # 114
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2019-2020

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Introduction

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee of the North Carolina General Assembly requires the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to provide a biennial report on the implementation of the Founding Principles Act. This report outlines the steps NCDPI has taken to support districts and schools with implementation of the requirements in this legislation since the submission of the last report in October 2017.

NCGA Founding Principles Requirements

On June 23, 2011, the North Carolina General Assembly passed The Founding Principles Act (SL 2011-273) that directed 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, NCDPI and local boards of education, as appropriate, were directed to provide "curriculum content" to support this semester course. Lastly, the Act directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to align "any curriculum-based tests developed and administered statewide" to include the content expressed in the Act. Since the passage of this law, NCDPI has implemented these and any additional legislative requirements to ensure alignment of standards, professional learning materials, and assessments with the requirements of this law.

Required Course in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study

The *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* for the American History: Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics course provides state content standards aligned to the legislation. The *NC Standard Course of Study* may be accessed at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/civics.pdf>. K-12 Social Studies content standards are being reviewed and revised during the 2019-20 school year, with anticipated approval by the State Board of Education in Spring 2020. All legislative requirements will be included in the new standards.

Instructional Resources and Curriculum Content

Various resources have been created and implemented by NCDPI, in collaboration with classroom teachers and experts in economics and civics, to help educators across the state successfully teach the founding principles in the local curriculum as specified in the legislation, and to support alignment with curriculum, instruction, and assessment (See Table A). These tools may be accessed from the NCDPI google site: <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/social-studies/resources>. Registration for the virtual course is available through the online learning platform for NC Educators.

Aligned Assessment

The DPI Division of Testing and Accountability included assessment items on the 2017-18 and 2018-19 North Carolina Final Exams for the American History: Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics course in alignment with the legislation. The average percentage of operational and embedded items across all forms of the assessment is approximately 45% (see Appendix A).

2019 – 2021 Biennium

In July 2019, House Bill 924, which modifies the current legislation, was passed into law. Revision of the *K-12 Social Studies Standard Course of Study* is taking place during the 2019-20 school year, with anticipated approval by the State Board of Education in Spring 2020, including the new Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy course, as required by House Bill 924. NCDPI will provide ongoing professional development for teachers in civic education and will report on how all requirements are being met in the next biennial report due October 15, 2021.

Table A: American History: Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics Course Resources

1. Founding Principles Framework Curriculum Guide

This tool provides guidance on the founding principles outlined in NC General Statute; proposes a coherent framework for local districts and schools to organize and develop curriculum for the course; and, identifies teaching resources that align to the course and legislation and reflects effective strategies for teaching and learning.

This tool is organized into four (4) curricular clusters which include:

1. Clarifying objectives aligned to the cluster with key concepts identified
2. A set of generalizations developed from the key concepts
3. Examples of Classroom Implementation (units and inquiries)
4. Additional Resources
5. Opportunities to share resources via SchoolNet, an online platform for NC Educators

2. Founding Principles Recorded Webinar and FAQ

This tool provides guidance to classroom educators to align their instruction in their classes to the Founding Principles legislation. It unpacks and explains the content of the curriculum guide.

3. Founding Principles Virtual Course

This is a NCDPI facilitated online course offered through Canvas. The course provides a brief history of the Founding Principles legislation and the Founding Principles clusters are used to help teachers with their instruction. Teachers evaluate their own high school American History: Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics course to ensure alignment of the content with their instruction. The course takes approximately twenty hours to complete and teachers may receive 2.0 Continuing Education Units upon successful completion.

Appendix A:

American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics NCFE-Founding Principles Act Alignment: 2017–18

| NC Final Exam | FPA-Aligned Items | Total Items | Percentage of FPA-Aligned Items <i>(rounded to nearest hundredth percent)</i> |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Base (operational only) | 16 | 37 (excludes placeholders) | 43.24% |
| FP Version 1 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |
| FP Version 2 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 44.19% |
| FP Version 3 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 44.19% |
| FP Version 4 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |
| FP Version 5 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |
| FP Version 6 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 44.19% |
| FP Version 7 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |
| FP Version 8 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |
| FP Version 9 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |
| FP Version 10 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 41.86% |

Percentage of FPA-Aligned Items in **Base Form**: **43.24%**

Average Percentage of FPA-Aligned Items across **Embedded Forms**: **43.57%**

American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics
NCFE-Founding Principles Act Alignment: 2018–19

| NC Final Exam | FPA-Aligned Items | Total Items | Percentage of FPA-Aligned Items <i>(rounded to nearest hundredth percent)</i> |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Base (operational only) | 17 | 37 (excludes placeholders) | 45.95% |
| FP Version 1 (includes embedding) | 20 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 47.62% |
| FP Version 2 (includes embedding) | 20 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 47.62% |
| FP Version 3 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 45.24% |
| FP Version 4 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 42.86% |
| FP Version 5 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 45.24% |
| FP Version 6 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 45.24% |
| FP Version 7 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 45.24% |
| FP Version 8 (includes embedding) | 18 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 42.86% |
| FP Version 9 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 45.24% |
| FP Version 10 (includes embedding) | 19 | 42 (includes embedded items) | 45.24% |

Percentage of FPA-Aligned Items in **Base Form**: **45.95%**
Average Percentage of FPA-Aligned Items across **Embedded Forms**: **45.24%**