MEMORANDUM

TO: District Instructional Leaders
   District Test Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Anne Pressley
       Director, Office of Standards and Learning

       Elizabeth Jones
       Director, Office of Assessment

DATE: May 19, 2020

RE: Social Studies Instruction and Assessment in 2020–21

To support effective implementation of the 2019 South Carolina Social Studies College and Career Ready Standards, school districts will have the option to delay their implementation until the 2021–22 academic year or to proceed with their implementation in 2020–21. Districts who opt to implement the 2019 standards during 2020–21 may do so with the exception of United States History and the Constitution (USHC).

For USHC, the first End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) field-testing of items aligned to the 2019 standards was scheduled for spring 2020. All test items for a statewide assessment must be field-tested before they are included on an operational assessment. Since this field-test was not administered, USHC EOCEP tests aligned to the 2019 standards cannot be developed for 2020–21.

Therefore, the 2020–21 EOCEP USHC tests (fall 2020/winter 2021, spring 2021, and summer 2021) will measure the 2011 USHC standards. Instruction should include an opportunity for students to learn the 2011 standards. As a reminder, in accordance with State Board of Education regulation 43-262, districts must provide students with copies of the academic standards, no later than the first day of instruction in the course. Students should be advised that the EOCEP will be based on the skills and content represented in those academic standards. Assessments measuring the 2019 standards will begin in fall 2021 following the spring 2021 field test.