

## Kindergarten SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	6	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- The theme shifts from 'Spaces and Places' (a geography-centered self-to-world lens) to 'Me and My Communities' — a community-identity framework grounding learning in self, family, school, and neighborhood belonging.
- Standard count grows from 19 to 22, the largest increase at any elementary grade, driven by new dedicated standards in civics, history, and financial literacy that deepen content coverage at the kindergarten level.
- Kindergarten has the highest proportion of Strong Alignments of any grade in the K-5 project — most 2017 standards are preserved with only modest reframing, reflecting that the foundational concepts of community, rules, geography, and change over time are stable across both versions.
- The 2026 Inquiry Practice section adds a new Claims and Evidence standard (SS.K.3) with teacher guidance — kindergartners are now expected to support facts and opinions with source evidence, a skill not present at this level in 2017.
- The Iowa History standard (SS.K.19) is meaningfully preserved in 2026 but reframed: instead of comparing environmental characteristics, 2026 SS.K.18 asks students to compare rules and responsibilities in local Iowa environments to other parts of the state — connecting place to civic behavior.
- New civics content in 2026 includes: naming rules and responsibilities in different group contexts (SS.K.13) and describing roles of community helpers and leaders from custodians to governors (SS.K.16) — concrete civics standards with no 2017 equivalent.
- Financial literacy is expanded with two new foundational standards: recognizing ways to earn and save money (SS.K.21) and identifying forms of money — coins and dollar bills (SS.K.22) — establishing an earlier and more concrete money literacy progression than 2017.
- The historical sources standard (SS.K.18) from 2017 is not preserved as a standalone content standard in 2026; instead, source analysis is embedded within the inquiry Claims and Evidence standard (SS.K.3), reflecting 2026's approach of integrating source skills into the inquiry framework rather than treating them as separate content.



## 1st Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	2	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	6	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- The theme shifts from 'Communities and Culture' (a broad, civic-skills-focused lens) to 'Places Near and Far' — a geography-centered framework grounding community study in spatial thinking, local place, and cultural traditions.

- Standard count drops from 23 to 22, but the content is meaningfully reorganized: geography standards expand significantly while abstract civic-skills standards are simplified or merged.

- Geography is dramatically elevated in 2026: five of the first twelve content standards are geography standards, including three dedicated geographic tools standards (SS.1.7–SS.1.9) that have no 2017 equivalent — map features, constructing a simple map, and locating community/county/state capital.

- Inquiry Practice standards are closely aligned (SS.1.1–SS.1.5 map strongly), with 2026 maintaining the teacher-guided scaffolding language consistent with first grade. The classroom democratic procedures standard (SS.1.6) is absorbed into the community participation standard.

- Cultural traditions content is expanded and enriched in 2026: three new standards address beliefs/traditions/customs in communities (SS.1.15), how traditions are passed across generations (SS.1.16), and respecting others' traditions as civic virtue (SS.1.17) — none of these appeared in 2017.

- Career and financial literacy is deepened in 2026: a single 2017 jobs standard becomes three 2026 standards — jobs meeting community needs (SS.1.19), individual skills and career goals (SS.1.20), and spending/saving/borrowing (SS.1.21) — building a more structured financial literacy progression from the earliest grades.

- The Iowa History standard (SS.1.23) is preserved and enriched in 2026 via SS.1.18, which focuses on the historical origins of Iowa festivals and celebrations representing the state's diverse cultures — adding named Iowa community examples.

- No 2017 standard is left entirely without a match; the closest to no alignment is SS.1.12 (international trade) which is only partially absorbed into the community goods-and-services standard, reflecting 2026's shift from global economic concepts to local and place-based learning at grade 1.



## 2nd Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	3	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	6	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- The theme shift reflects a significant refocus: 2017's broad 'Choices and Consequences' civic lens is replaced in 2026 by 'Our State' — a place-based Iowa-specific content framework centered on the state's history, geography, people, and identity.
- Standard count stays nearly the same (24→20), but the content is substantially reorganized: 2026 drops several general civics/economics standards and adds multiple Iowa-specific history and Native American content standards.
- Inquiry Practice standards (SS.2.1–5) are well-aligned, with 2026 reducing from six inquiry standards to five. The 2017 classroom democratic procedures standard (SS.2.6) is absorbed into the broader community engagement standard (SS.2.5).
- Iowa content is dramatically expanded in 2026: where 2017 had a single Iowa History standard (SS.2.24 on natural resources), 2026 dedicates seven standards to Iowa — Native American cultures, indigenous leaders, community change, significant state events, state symbols, and regional geography.
- Native American content is a major new addition in 2026 with four dedicated standards (SS.2.6–9) addressing Iowa's Plains and Woodland Native cultures, the removal and return of indigenous people, and the contributions of specific named Native American leaders — none of which appeared in 2017.
- The 2017 Iowa History standard on natural resource consequences (SS.2.24) is directly preserved in 2026 as SS.2.17, making it one of the most stable standards in the alignment.
- Several 2017 civic-skills standards are not preserved: explaining government goods and services (SS.2.13) has no 2026 equivalent, and the community problem-solving and local opinion standards are absorbed into the broader civic engagement standard.
- Financial literacy shifts focus in 2026: career-education connections and spending/saving choices are retained, but 2026 adds a concrete money-handling standard (SS.2.20) on making amounts from coins and bills — a practical skill absent from 2017.



### 3rd Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	4	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	1	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- The theme shift is the most dramatic in any elementary grade: 2017 focused on 'Immigration and Migration' as a broad social studies lens; 2026 replaces this entirely with 'America's Early Story' — a content-specific U.S. and colonial history narrative.
- Standard count drops from 28 to 20, achieved primarily by consolidating inquiry standards and replacing the open-ended immigration theme with specific content standards tied to chronological American history.
- Inquiry Practice standards (SS.3.1–5) are strongly aligned overall, though 2026 reduces from seven inquiry standards to five by merging credibility evaluation with evidence citing and folding peer critique into communication.
- The 2017 inquiry anchor 'Critiquing Conclusions' and the classroom democratic procedures standard (SS.3.7) are absorbed into the 2026 Civic Engagement standard (SS.3.5), which shifts from classroom-level democratic processes to community participation.
- Native American content is significantly expanded in 2026: three new dedicated standards address Native American cultures (SS.3.6), government structures (SS.3.8), and natural resource use (SS.3.9) — none of which had direct 2017 equivalents.
- New colonial-era content in 2026 with no 2017 equivalent includes: the Mayflower Compact (SS.3.12), early exploration routes (SS.3.13), reasons for establishing the Thirteen Colonies (SS.3.16), and the impact of slavery on early American history (SS.3.17).
- Three 2017 economics standards are not carried forward: scarcity and economic decision-making (SS.3.12), the role of financial institutions (SS.3.14), and specialization and trade among nations (SS.3.15) — likely moved to other grade levels in the 2026 sequence.
- Iowa-specific content is reduced: 2017 had two dedicated Iowa History standards on indigenous movement and cultural contributions (SS.3.27–28); 2026 incorporates Native American/Iowa context within the broader Native American cultural and geographic standards but drops the dedicated Iowa cultural contributions standard.



## 4th Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	2	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	7	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- The Inquiry Practice standards (SS.4.1–SS.4.4) are tightly aligned between both versions.
- The 2026 standards introduce a strong U.S. history narrative (American Revolution, westward expansion, immigration) absent in 2017.
- The 2017 theme of 'Change and Continuity' is replaced by the more content-specific 'Our New Nation' in 2026.
- Economics/Financial Literacy standards are mostly retained; SS.4.15 (spending/saving) is nearly identical across both versions.
- The 2017 Iowa History standards (SS.4.25–4.26) are partially absorbed into 2026 history and geography standards.
- Several 2017 economics standards (competition, national economy) are not carried forward in 2026.
- 2026 adds civic engagement around immigration and government policies — a notable new emphasis.



## 5th Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	3	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	5	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inquiry Practice standards (SS.5.1–SS.5.5) are strongly aligned; 2026 removes scaffolding language (e.g., 'with teacher direction').</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2017 theme 'Rights and Responsibilities' transitions to 'Our Changing Nation' in 2026, shifting from abstract principles to specific U.S. history content.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2026 standards introduce a focused narrative arc: Constitution → Civil War → Industrial Revolution → Civil Rights Movement.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civics standards are well-aligned; 2026 adds greater depth and specificity (federalism, Bill of Rights amendments, legislative process).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS.5.26 (Iowa's role in civil rights) aligns strongly with 2026 SS.5.20, which expands to include youth activism and national context.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three 2017 economics standards (global trade, goods/services distribution, fraud prevention) have no 2026 equivalent.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Industrial Revolution is a major new content addition in 2026 (SS.5.14–5.16) with no direct 2017 parallel.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial literacy standards are partially retained; 2026 expands to include investment, long-term goals, and borrowing/credit.</li> </ul>



## 6th Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	4	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	31	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- The 6th grade shift is the most dramatic of any grade level: 2017 had 28 standards; 2026 has 61 — more than doubling the content.
- The 2017 theme 'World Regions and Cultures' is replaced by 'Ancient/Medieval World Studies,' reflecting a shift from geographic to deep chronological/content focus.
- Inquiry Practice standards (SS.6.1–SS.6.6) are strongly aligned; 2026 consistently removes teacher-scaffolding language, signaling higher student independence.
- The Iowa geography comparison standard (2017 SS.6.23) is preserved and appears TWICE in 2026 — once for Mesopotamia (SS.6.9) and once for China (SS.6.34).
- 2026 introduces massive new content coverage: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judaism, Greece, Rome, China, Maya/Aztec/Inca, Medieval Europe, Renaissance, Reformation, and Age of Exploration.
- Several 2017 broad skills (peer critique of arguments, democratic classroom procedures, group influence) are dropped in 2026 in favor of content-specific standards.
- Financial literacy standards are partially preserved; the debit/credit card standard (SS.6.26→SS.6.61) is nearly identical. New 2026 standards add career planning and economic systems.
- The 2017 global economy standard (SS.6.15) maps only partially to 2026 SS.6.59, which narrows focus to the U.S. market economy specifically.



## 7th Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	2	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	19	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- Standard count increases: 2017 had 31 standards; 2026 has 39 — driven by new region-specific content standards.
- The theme shifts from 'Contemporary Global Studies' (issues-based) to 'Modern World Studies' (region-by-region geographic and historical survey).
- Inquiry Practice standards (SS.7.1–SS.7.7) are strongly aligned. 2026 removes 'guided practice' scaffolding language and adds structured argument and citation requirements.
- The 2017 global/contemporary issues focus (hunger, poverty, climate, human rights) is replaced in 2026 by a structured world regional survey: North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Middle East.
- Financial literacy standards are strongly aligned; 2026 combines consumer rights with the spending/advertising standard and expands investment tools with specific risk-level examples.
- Iowa's role in global issues (2017 SS.7.27) is not a standalone standard in 2026, but Iowa is woven into several standards (e.g., economic globalization SS.7.11, migration SS.7.15).
- Several 2017 civic skills — peer critique of arguments, democratic classroom procedures, and media/interest group roles — are dropped entirely in 2026.
- New 2026 content on Israel/Middle East (SS.7.36–7.37), communism in Asia (SS.7.26), and Antarctic governance (SS.7.34) reflects a more current geopolitical emphasis.



## 8th Grade SS Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	2	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	20	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard count grows dramatically: 2017 had 29 standards; 2026 has 42 — the largest absolute increase for a U.S.-history-focused grade.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both versions share the same core theme: U.S. History with a focus on the founding era, Constitution, and Civil War/Reconstruction.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inquiry Practice standards (SS.8.1–SS.8.7) are strongly aligned; 2026 drops peer critique and democratic classroom procedures as standalone standards.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2026 standards expand early American history into granular, content-specific standards covering colonialism, the Revolution, Constitution, early republic, westward expansion, Industrial Revolution, pre-Civil War reforms, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial literacy standards are strongly aligned across both versions; 2026 adds a career pathways standard (SS.8.42) and makes budgeting a hands-on creation task.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iowa's government structure (2017 SS.8.25) is preserved in 2026 SS.8.24 but reframed as Iowa's formation as a state — a more historical/chronological approach.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2017 broad economics standards (decision-making wellbeing, entrepreneurship/innovation) are absorbed into content-specific history and economics standards in 2026.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2026 Civil War and Reconstruction section (SS.8.30–SS.8.37) is entirely new — eight dedicated standards with no direct 2017 equivalent, reflecting a major expansion of this period.</li> </ul>



## High School Civics/Government Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	4	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- This is a tightly aligned subject area: the majority of 2017 standards map strongly to 2026, with no standards dropped entirely.
- Standard count grows modestly from 16 to 20 — a targeted expansion rather than a wholesale restructuring.
- The 2017 broad 'Analyze Civic and Political Institutions' anchor is disaggregated in 2026 into four focused anchor standards: Constitutional Principles, Role and Systems, Processes/Rules/Laws, and Citizenship.
- The single largest structural change: 2017's SS-Gov.9-12.17 (branches of government) is expanded into three dedicated 2026 standards — one per branch (SS.9-12.Gov.6, .7, .8) — with substantially greater depth and detail.
- Iowa-specific content is strengthened and expanded: 2017's SS-Gov.9-12.27 maps to three 2026 standards — Iowa state government (SS.9-12.Gov.18), Meskwaki Nation tribal government (SS.9-12.Gov.19), and Iowa local governments (SS.9-12.Gov.20).
- New in 2026: Enlightenment principles (SS.9-12.Gov.2), founding document analysis (SS.9-12.Gov.3), and citizens' rights/duties/responsibilities (SS.9-12.Gov.17) are dedicated standards with no 2017 equivalent.
- The 2026 electoral process standard (SS.9-12.Gov.13) adds Iowa-specific detail: voter registration requirements, paper ballots, absentee voting, and the Iowa Caucuses.
- Political socialization (2017 SS-Gov.9-12.21) is absorbed into the broader intermediary institutions standard (2026 SS.9-12.Gov.12) rather than standing alone.



## High School Economics Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	2	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- This is the most structurally stable grade band of the entire K-12 alignment project: both versions have exactly 12 standards, and no 2017 standard is dropped entirely.
- The overwhelming majority of pairs are Strong Alignments — the core concepts of scarcity, supply/demand, competition, economic indicators, trade, and Iowa's economy are fully preserved.
- 2026 adds greater specificity throughout: market failure types, types of competition (monopoly, oligopoly), CPI/GDP as indicator examples, and comparative vs. absolute advantage in trade.
- The Iowa economics standard (2017 SS-Econ.9-12.24 → 2026 SS.9-12.Econ.11) is nearly identical, with 2026 adding concrete Iowa examples: corn/soybean exports, USMCA, and U.S.-China trade war tariffs.
- Two new dedicated 2026 standards have no 2017 equivalent: types of business ownership (SS.9-12.Econ.4) and fiscal/monetary policy including the Federal Reserve and key economists (SS.9-12.Econ.9).
- The government's role in markets (2017 SS-Econ.9-12.18–19) is consolidated in 2026 into a single, expanded standard (SS.9-12.Econ.8) covering property rights, public goods, externalities, and stabilization.
- 2026 adds behavioral economics theory and population pyramid analysis (birth/death rates and economic impact) as new content within existing standards.
- The 2026 anchor standard taxonomy is updated from 'Explain Exchange and Markets' and 'Evaluate the National Economy' to 'Exchange and Markets,' 'Economic Systems,' and 'Production and Consumption.'



## High School Financial Literacy Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	0	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- Every single 2017 standard has a Strong Alignment in 2026 — this is the only course in the K–12 project with a perfect alignment rate and no dropped standards.
- Standard count decreases slightly from 12 to 11, achieved by consolidating the two 2017 debt/credit standards (SS-FL.9-12.19 and .20) into a single richer 2026 standard (SS.9-12.FL.8).
- The 2026 'Financial and Career Goals' anchor is significantly expanded: a dedicated post-high school planning standard (SS.9-12.FL.3) now covers college savings accounts (529 plans), trade school, apprenticeships, and military pathways.
- Career and income standards are split into two in 2026: career choices (SS.9-12.FL.1) and income sources/earning potential (SS.9-12.FL.2), adding depth on employment types (gig work, commission, contracting) and trade-off analysis.
- The investment standard (2017 SS-FL.9-12.22 → 2026 SS.9-12.FL.6) sees the largest content expansion: compound interest, diversification, risk tolerance, IRAs, employer-sponsored retirement plans, 529 plans, annuities, and commodities are all added.
- The insurance standard (2026 SS.9-12.FL.10) gains substantially more specificity: renters, disability, identity theft, and long-term care insurance are named, along with key terms like deductible, stop loss, elimination period, and out-of-pocket.
- Consumer spending decisions (2017 SS-FL.9-12.17) are absorbed into the 2026 budgeting standard (SS.9-12.FL.4), which adds mortgage types, checkbook balancing, spending categories, and the influence of marketing on purchasing decisions.
- The anchor standard structure is streamlined in 2026 from four categories to three: Financial and Career Goals, Saving/Spending/Investing (combined), and Credit and Risk Management.



## High School Geography Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	4	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- No 2017 standard is dropped entirely — every 2017 standard maps to at least one 2026 standard, making geography one of the most fully preserved high school courses.

- Standard count grows from 12 to 16, with the additions representing genuine new content depth rather than restructuring of existing standards.

- The anchor standard structure is significantly reorganized: 2017's four broad anchors are replaced in 2026 with five more descriptive anchors (Geographic Tools, Places and Regions, Human Movement and Patterns, Human-Environment Interaction, Global Connections).

- The 2026 geographic tools standards (SS.9-12.Geo.1–2) add modern technology: GIS, GPS, remote sensing, satellite imagery, and census data — tools absent from the 2017 version.

- Population geography is substantially expanded in 2026: two new dedicated standards cover demographic data/Demographic Transition Model (SS.9-12.Geo.3) and population distribution and density (SS.9-12.Geo.4).

- Agricultural geography is entirely new in 2026: two standards address food production (SS.9-12.Geo.11) and agricultural economic systems (SS.9-12.Geo.12), with Iowa explicitly named in SS.9-12.Geo.11.

- Economic development geography is new in 2026 (SS.9-12.Geo.15), introducing Central Place Theory, core-periphery relationships, and site/situation factors for manufacturing.

- The Iowa geography standard (2017 SS-Geo.9-12.24) is preserved in 2026 SS.9-12.Geo.11, which anchors Iowa's environmental geography within a broader agricultural change and food systems standard.



High School US History Alignment Summary		
No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	14	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

Key Observations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the single largest expansion in the entire K–12 project: 2017 had 15 standards; 2026 has 56 — a nearly 4x increase in standard count.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No 2017 content is lost — every 2017 skill and topic is preserved in 2026, but the organizational approach is completely transformed from cross-cutting skills to era-by-era content sequences.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The defining structural innovation: 2026 organizes the course into eight sequential historical eras (Founding/Civil War/Reconstruction, Westward Expansion, Progressive Era, WWI/Imperialism, 1920s/Depression, WWII, Cold War/Civil Rights, 1990s–Present), each with a consistent set of recurring standard types.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each 2026 era contains the same four recurring standard types: (1) labor/economic systems, (2) multiple perspectives/primary sources, (3) exemplary Americans and Iowans with civic virtues, and (4) change/continuity/context — applied to that era's specific content.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa-specific content is dramatically expanded: 2017 had one Iowa History standard; 2026 has eight era-specific 'exemplary Iowans' standards naming dozens of Iowans across all periods of U.S. history.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entirely new dedicated content in 2026 includes: Native American displacement during westward expansion (SS.9-12.US.11), the American response to the Holocaust (SS.9-12.US.30), McCarthyism and domestic anti-communism (SS.9-12.US.36), and government responses to post-9/11 domestic crises including COVID-19 and January 6th (SS.9-12.US.53).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rise of Conservatism becomes a standalone standard in 2026 (SS.9-12.US.48), covering Reaganomics, détente, the Cold War's end, and conservative foreign policy — a topic not addressed in 2017.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contemporary history (1990s–present) receives four dedicated 2026 standards (SS.9-12.US.51–54), compared to essentially no dedicated coverage in 2017, making recent decades a fully integrated part of the curriculum.</li> </ul>



## High School World History Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	1	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	24	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- This is the second largest expansion in the K–12 project: 2017 had 14 standards; 2026 has 43 — a more than 3x increase, second only to U.S. History (15→56).
- Only one 2017 standard is lost — almost every 2017 skill is preserved in 2026, but the structure transforms completely from broad thematic skills to a chronologically sequenced, era-by-era content framework.
- The 2026 course is organized into four sequential eras: Early Modern World (1450–1750), Age of Revolution and Industry (1750–1900), World Wars and Cold War (1900–1991), and Globalization (1990s–Present).
- Each era in 2026 follows the same five recurring standard types — matching the U.S. History pattern: Chronological Reasoning, Comparison/Corroboration, Change/Continuity, Multiple Perspectives, and Historical Interpretation — applied to era-specific content.
- The 2026 course introduces two cartographic/mapping standards (SS.9-12.WH.7 and SS.9-12.WH.34) with no 2017 equivalent, requiring students to visually trace empire expansion and post-WWII global change.
- Major new dedicated content includes: the Protestant Reformation and the printing press (SS.9-12.WH.13–14), Atlantic revolutions compared and contrasted (SS.9-12.WH.16–19), the Holocaust and rise of dictators (SS.9-12.WH.30), Cold War mass atrocities by communist regimes (SS.9-12.WH.38), and terrorism and the War on Terror (SS.9-12.WH.43).
- Iowa content is dramatically reduced from 2017: the 2017 Iowa History standard (SS-WH.9-12.26) has only a single indirect connection in 2026 — John Froelich's gasoline-powered engine mentioned as an Industrial Revolution example in SS.9-12.WH.22.
- The 2026 standards shift from evaluating 'Iowans who influenced world history' to embedding a universal set of analytical skills applied globally, reflecting a deliberate move toward content-specific rigor over Iowa-connection requirements in this course.



## High School Psychology Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	22	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- This is one of the most dramatic expansions in the K–12 project by ratio: 2017 had 11 psychology standards; 2026 has 32 — nearly a 3x increase, transforming a broad behavioral science framework into a full college-prep psychology course.
- The 2017 psychology strand was organized around three broad behavioral-science anchors shared with sociology. The 2026 standards are fully independent, organized into 10 content-specific anchors mirroring a college introductory psychology course.
- Every 2017 standard is preserved in 2026 — research methods, ethics, data analysis, sociocultural influences on behavior, and group dynamics all map strongly to 2026 equivalents.
- The 2026 course adds entirely new content areas with no 2017 equivalent: Sensation and Perception, Consciousness (including sleep, dreams, and psychoactive drugs), Memory, Learning (classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning), Lifespan Development, Personality, and Motivation and Emotion.
- Mental and Physical Health is an entirely new 2026 anchor (four standards) covering abnormal behavior, psychological disorders, stress, wellness strategies, and treatment modalities — none of which appeared in 2017.
- The 2026 research methods standards (SS.9-12.Psy.1–2) are more rigorous than their 2017 counterparts, adding inferential statistics, replication, validity/reliability, and visual data interpretation.
- The 2026 Motivation and Emotion anchor alone has four standards (SS.9-12.Psy.25–28) — more standards than the entire 2017 psychology strand's research methods section — reflecting major new depth in affective psychology.
- The shift from shared behavioral science standards to a dedicated psychology course reflects a move toward discipline-specific rigor and closer alignment with AP Psychology and college introductory psychology curricula.



## High School Sociology Alignment Summary

No Alignment (2017 only)	0	2017 standard has no clear match in the 2026 framework
No Alignment (2026 only)	6	2026 standard is newly introduced with no 2017 equivalent

### Key Observations

- Standard count grows from 11 to 15 — a more modest expansion compared to psychology, reflecting that sociology's 2017 framework was already more sociologically grounded.
- Every 2017 sociology standard maps strongly to a 2026 equivalent — no content is lost, and the core topics of group dynamics, stratification, research methods, and sociological theory are all fully preserved.
- The 2026 course is reorganized from three broad behavioral-science anchors into four sociology-specific anchors: Sociological Perspective and Methods, Social Structure, Social Relationships, and Stratification.
- Stratification receives dedicated treatment in 2026 with four standards (SS.9-12.Soc.12–15) compared to two in 2017, adding global stratification, institutional reinforcement of inequality, and theoretical perspectives on class structure.
- The 2026 'Social Structure: Culture, Institutions, and Society' anchor is entirely new as a dedicated section — introducing culture components, ethnocentrism, cultural relativity, and a full treatment of social institutions (family, education, religion, economy, government).
- The Social Construction of the Self (SS.9-12.Soc.10) is a new standalone standard in 2026 drawing on Mead's framework (I and me, generalized other) — conceptual depth not present in 2017.
- The Sociological Perspective anchor (SS.9-12.Soc.1–4) adds a new standard (SS.9-12.Soc.2) explicitly distinguishing sociology from other social sciences and introducing sociological imagination — a foundational concept absent from 2017.
- Like psychology, the 2026 sociology course shifts from shared behavioral science standards toward a discipline-specific course structure, more closely mirroring introductory college sociology curricula.

