



Kentucky Department of

**E D U C A T I O N**

## **Minding the Gap Module Overview**

### **Design of Module**

- The Minding the Gap Module supports districts, local schools and professional learning communities (PLCs) in building knowledge and capacity around the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies* by supporting educators in building a common understanding of the standards while identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in current practice and curricula throughout implementation.
- The module contains six sections. Each section of this module is designed to be administered in a 45- minute PLC session; however, the timeline and work sessions can be adjusted to best fit the needs of schools and districts.
- Module facilitators may include, but are not limited to: district leaders, school administrators, instructional specialists/coaches, department chairs, and/or teacher leaders. With that in mind, the facilitator notes include content information and instructional support intended to provide support to a facilitator who may or may not have an extensive background in social studies.

### **Module Goals**

- The goals of the Minding the Gap Module are for districts and schools to:
- Build a shared understanding of the *KAS for Social Studies* progressions and grade level expectations.
- Map the expectations of the *KAS for Social Studies* to current practice and curricula.
- Identify gaps and overlaps between the *KAS for Social Studies* and current practice and curricula.
- Identify and prioritize gaps that exist and consider available curriculum resources, time allocation for each content area, and any additional solutions to eliminate gaps.
- Create a proposed plan of action to successfully implement the *KAS for Social Studies* and close gaps.

### **Introducing the Module**

- Essential objective: To share an overview of the Minding the Gap module.
- Key features: Visual to communicate the continuous process of reviewing standards; Reflection questions to prompt thinking how to begin to identify and fill gaps when beginning to implement standards.

### **Section A: Understanding Progressions**

- Essential objective: Begin to build a shared understanding of the *KAS for Social Studies* progressions and grade level expectations.
- Key features: Guidance on the purpose of learning progressions and how they are built into the standards; Discovery task to help teachers begin to identify the learning progressions in the standards.

### **Section B: Unpacking the Standards**

- Essential objective: Begin to unpack the standards in order to clearly understand each piece of a standard.

- Key features: Guidance on why and how to break a standard into smaller, more explicit chunks for the purposes of curriculum development, and/or unit and lesson planning; Introduction to a tool and process to begin to unpack standards.

### **Section C: Mapping the Standards to Current Practice**

- Essential objective: Map the expectations of the *KAS for Social Studies* to current practice and curricula.
- Key features: Activities to identify current strengths, gaps and questions after an initial analysis of the standards; Continued use of a tool to unpack standards to begin to map the standards to current practice.

### **Section D: Identifying Gaps and Overlaps in the Standards**

- Essential objective: Identify gaps and overlaps between the *KAS for Social Studies* and current practice and curricula. •
- Key features: Questions to guide identification of gaps between the current curriculum and the standards; Strategies and questions to guide multiple conversations within and across grades to clarify an understanding of the gaps.

### **Section E: Bridging the Gaps**

- Essential objective: Identify and prioritize gaps that exist and consider available curriculum resources, time allocation for each content area, and any additional solutions to eliminate gaps and create a proposed plan of action to successfully implement the *KAS for Social Studies* and close gaps.
- Key feature: Introduction of a tool to begin to plan to fill the gaps; strategies to begin to fill the gaps.