



2027-2028 K-12 Social Studies Adoption

Publishers Questionnaire (IM8)

1. Authors & Credentials

List full name of author(s), with major or senior author listed first. Briefly provide credentials for each author.

Bert Bower – Ph.D., Curriculum and Teacher Education, Stanford University. Bower is a nationally recognized K-12 social studies author and pedagogy expert with over 36 years of experience developing innovative social studies programs. He began his career as a classroom teacher before collaborating with educators nationwide to author curricula for DC Heath, Stanford's Program for International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE), and Teachers' Curriculum Institute's K-12 social studies series.

2. Students

Describe the type(s) of students for which this submission is intended.

Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) K-12 Social Studies, Florida Edition is designed to meet the needs of all students. TCI's approach to teaching is the foundation of every program—reaching learners of all abilities through multimodal, research-based active instruction, and hands-on learning in every lesson. Differentiation is built directly into the pedagogy and includes active learning across multiple modalities, nonlinguistic representation, considerate text design with scaffolding, and additional tools such as lesson modifications, reading supports, and access points for diverse learners.

For students in advanced coursework, this same commitment extends further through increased academic rigor. That rigor is built through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multifaceted, challenging students to think critically and collaborate on the content they are learning. It is achieved by increasing text complexity through careful text selection, a focus on high-level qualitative measures, and more demanding tasks, with instruction structured to build a deeper understanding of conceptual themes and organization within and across disciplines. Academic rigor, in other words, is about the depth and complexity of thinking required—not a greater quantity of work.

3. List the Florida districts in which this program has been piloted in the last eighteen months.

No Florida districts have piloted this K-12 Social Studies, Florida Edition ©2027 in the last eighteen months.

4. How are your digital materials searchable by Florida State Standards (Section 1006.33(1)(E), Florida Statutes)?

There are several ways to search for Florida standards in TCI's materials. On TCI's platform, standards are available on the Correlations page in the Reference section, where teachers can see where each standard

is covered across the program. The page links directly to the text, activities, and assessments tied to each standard, so coverage is easy to track.

Every lesson, reading, and assessment is also tagged at the point of use, so teachers can see which benchmarks a given resource covers without leaving their workflow.

Downloadable correlations for each grade level and course will be made available.

5. Identify and describe the components of the Major Tool, including a description of the educational approach of the submission.

The Major Tool is TCI's K–12 Social Studies, Florida Edition, delivered through an integrated print and digital program. Students and teachers access content in two ways: through TCI's online platform and print components. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

Student components

A multi-year subscription includes a print Student Journal (K–5) or Student Edition (6–12) and a Student License for online access. Together, they give students two ways to reach the content they need to master Florida's Social Studies benchmarks.

- **Social Studies Student License (1 YR, 4 YR, 5 YR Licenses):** The Social Studies Student License provides online access to the student text with reading support features, assignments, hands-on activity slides, lesson games, Video Activities, Inquiry Challenges with embedded primary sources and step-by-step scaffolding, leveled reading of standards-based content, vocabulary cards, and professional Spanish translations.
- **Student Journal (K–5) / Student Edition (6–12) (English and Spanish)** The **print Student Journal (K–5)** combines standards-based content with rich activities, including unit Inquiry Challenges, hands-on activities, primary sources, literary passages, diverse biographies, vocabulary activities, and Show What You Know assessments. At the secondary level, the **Student Edition (6–12)** delivers standards-based narrative content, primary sources, vocabulary support, and diverse perspectives.

Teacher components

- **Social Studies Teacher License (1 YR, 4 YR, 5 YR Licenses):** The Social Studies Teacher License provides online access to ready-to-use slideshows, planning materials, pacing guides, differentiation tips and tools, Access Points for Differentiation, pre-built customizable assessments, Standards Reporting for real-time benchmark progress data, a flexible grading system, toolkits for scaffolding support, professional Spanish translations, and complete access to all Student License content.
- **Teacher's Guide:** The Teacher's Guide is available on the digital platform and in print. It provides planning resources, lesson procedures, Florida standards, differentiation support, and complete instructional support for every lesson.

Educational approach

TCI's K–12 Social Studies, Florida Edition is built on the TCI Approach, a set of instructional practices designed to make key social studies concepts accessible to students of all abilities. Lessons and activities draw on five well-established learning theories:

- **Understanding by Design:** planning backward from the big ideas students should learn to the methods and assessments that reach them, as advanced by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe.
- **Nonlinguistic Representation:** Robert Marzano's finding that storing information in both linguistic and nonlinguistic forms deepens understanding.

- **Multimodal Learning:** offering students multiple ways to access content so the material reaches all learners.
- **Cooperative Interaction:** Elizabeth Cohen's research that structured groupwork in mixed-ability groups increases interaction and achievement.
- **Spiral Curriculum:** Jerome Bruner's idea that students learn progressively more challenging concepts through step-by-step discovery.

Every lesson is built around one of six research-based teaching strategies:

- **Visual Discovery:** Students analyze and bring compelling images to life to uncover key concepts.
- **Social Studies Skill Builder:** Fast-paced, interactive tasks build content and disciplinary skills.
- **Experiential Exercise:** Short, memorable simulations make abstract ideas and distant events accessible.
- **Writing for Understanding:** Writing rooted in rich experiences develops content literacy for all learners.
- **Response Group:** Structured small-group discussion and debate drive deeper thinking.
- **Problem Solving Groupwork:** Students apply content knowledge to collaborative, real-world tasks.

Differentiation is built into the pedagogy. Active learning across multiple modalities, nonlinguistic representation, considerate text design with scaffolding, and lesson modifications with Access Points help all learners, including those with diverse reading levels and learning needs, reach grade-level content.

The platform supports teachers and students throughout. Standards Reporting gives teachers real-time progress data tied to Florida benchmarks. Teacher-Paced Mode lets teachers guide whole-class activities interactively. Civic preparation resources, such as citizenship toolkits and civic engagement activities, are included throughout all grade levels.

Florida benchmarks are identified at the point of use within the Teacher's Guide and throughout the platform, with a dedicated correlations page linking directly to aligned resources.

6. Identify and describe the ancillary materials and their relationship to the Major Tool.

Ancillary Materials – Student Components:

- **Social Studies Stories (K–5):** Reusable print student reader with short, high-interest readings from Geography, History, Economics, and Civics disciplines. Readings extend and reinforce content taught in the Major Tool's core lessons. Order one per student.
- **Interactive Desk Maps (K–5):** Durable, laminated maps sized for student desks, giving each student a hands-on reference for locating places, tracing routes, and marking key features as they come up in daily lessons. Maps are referenced directly at point of use within the Major Tool's lesson plans. Sold in packages of 25.
- **Test Prep Booklets (6–12):** Blackline masters that give students focused practice with standardized-test-style questions aligned to the program's content and standards, building familiarity with question formats and pacing ahead of state assessments. Questions are drawn from and aligned to the standards and content taught in the Major Tool.
- **Interactive Student Notebook (6–12) (English and Spanish):** The consumable Interactive Student Notebooks allow students to engage with their learning by expressing their ideas, completing graphically organized notes, and developing personalized responses. Notebook activities are correlated lesson-by-lesson to the Major Tool and cannot be completed independently of it. Order one per student.

Ancillary Materials – Teacher Components:

- **Activity Cards (K–5) (English and Spanish):** Laminated, reusable cards with maps, game boards, and manipulatives. Cards support the hands-on activities prescribed in the Major Tool's lesson plans and are called out at point of use in the Teacher's Guide. Order one per teacher.
- **Placards (6–12) (English and Spanish):** The Placards are laminated, reusable activity resources that engage students in analyzing historical images, graphs, maps, and primary sources. Placards are referenced directly within Major Tool lessons and provide the visual sources those lessons are built around. Order one per teacher.

7. Identify which industry standard protocols are utilized for interoperability.

TCI has implemented the 1EdTech Global Standards for LTI 1.1, LTI 1.3 Advantage, Thin Common Cartridge 1.2 and 1.3, QTI 2.1, QTI 2.2, and OneRoster API 1.1. TCI also supports SAML 2.0.

8. How much instructional time is needed for the successful implementation of this program?

TCI's program is designed to be taught across a full school year and is flexible enough to fit a variety of instructional schedules. At the elementary level, new pacing options are designed to fit either a dedicated social studies block or a literacy-integrated model, giving teachers the flexibility to teach social studies within a literacy block or as standalone instruction. At the middle and high school levels, the program is structured for a full-period, single-subject schedule.

Pacing guides are available for each program and grade level to support planning across different scheduling models.

9. What professional development is available?

TCI brings over three decades of experience supporting K-12 educators, and professional development is embedded at every level of the program — not offered as an add-on.

Embedded In-Platform PD:

Teachers have access to In-App Courses directly within the TCI platform — self-paced, on-demand training built into the instructional workflow so teachers can build skills in the moment they need them.

Year-1 Launch Support:

- Getting Started with training to orient teachers to the platform and program
- Self-Paced On-Demand Training (3-hour courses with certification)
- Building TCI Advanced Skills Webinar covering assignments, assessments, grading, and LMS integration

Ongoing Learning Opportunities:

- TCI Virtual Back to School Summit (annual, summer) — multi-session professional learning event
- TCI Webinars (60 minutes, recorded and available on demand)
- TCI Community — an educator network for peer connection and shared best practices

On-Demand Support:

- TCI Help Center with searchable articles and guides
- Webinar Library for self-paced review
- Live Customer Support, available 7am–4pm PT

All professional development resources are accessible directly through the TCI platform or at teachtci.com/professional-development/.

10. What hardware/equipment is required?

- Internet: 10 mbps (school) / 1.5 mbps (home)
- Network Filters/Firewalls: allow access to *.teachtci.com, platoproduction20160712.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com, *.speechstream.net, accounts.google.com, *.walkme.com
- Browsers: Chrome 133+, Safari 18+, Firefox 133+, Edge 133+
- OS: Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS X v10.15
- Processor: Dual-core 1.6GHz / Memory: 4 GB RAM
- Screen Resolution: 1024 x 768 / Sound card and speakers
- Mobile: Apple iPad/iPhone iOS 18.6+, Android 10+, Google Chromebook, Microsoft Surface Windows 10+

11. What licensing policies and/or agreements apply?

Teacher's Curriculum Institute's licensing and business terms are available at teachtci.com/tci-business-terms/. TCI's privacy policy is available at teachtci.com/privacy-policy/.

12. What states have adopted the submission?

All programs included in the submission are unique and customized for Florida, to meet Florida standards. No other states have adopted this submission.

13. What Open Educational Resources related to this bid do you make available?

TCI does not include Open Educational Resources within the major tools.

14. Do you have advanced placement (AP) or accelerated program instructional materials available for the course(s) bid for adoption?

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15. What, if any, foreign language translations do you have available?

TCI offers digital and print materials in Spanish. Our online reading also includes a translation tool supporting over 100 languages — including German, Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese — and the full TCI site is accessible via Google Translate.

16. Do you provide access point scaffolding or an access point correlation upon request?

TCI provides Access Points for Differentiation for every lesson, offering modified activities and scaffolded support that allow all students to engage with grade-level content. TCI lessons are carefully designed to support access for all learners. Differentiation support includes strategies for English Language Learners, learners reading and writing below grade level, learners with special education needs, and advanced learners.

Scaffolding tools available within the platform include Considerate Text design, in-line vocabulary, Text-to-Speech (English and Spanish), the Main Ideas tool, the Reading Level tool, and the Highlighting tool. Lessons are also structured around Essential Questions that provide an organizing framework for all learners.

17. ESSA Levels of Evidence: explain how your product meets the requirements for evidence-based programs.

TCI's programs meet ESSA's Tier 4 (Demonstrates a Rationale) standard for evidence-based instructional materials, with a well-defined research rationale grounded in established educational theory and ongoing efforts to examine program effectiveness.

The TCI Approach draws on five bodies of research:

- Understanding by Design (Wiggins & McTighe) — backward design ensures standards-aligned, purposeful instruction.
- Nonlinguistic Representation (Marzano) — graphic organizers and movement-based activities improve retention and recall.
- Multimodal Learning (Gardner) — six core instructional strategies create multiple entry points for all learners.
- Cooperative Interaction (Cohen) — structured groupwork increases equitable participation and content retention.
- Spiral Curriculum (Bruner) — concepts build in complexity across grades, deepening understanding through revisitation.

Beyond this research foundation, TCI's K-12 social studies programs have been independently reviewed by Learning List across grades K-12, providing third-party validation of instructional quality and standards alignment. TCI is also currently undergoing an independent efficacy review by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), reflecting its ongoing commitment to studying and strengthening program impact.