

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be . . . I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves. And if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education. - Thomas Jefferson

Public education in Minnesota must help students gain the knowledge and skills that are necessary to, in Jefferson's view, protect and maintain freedom. The Social Studies Standards on the following pages attempt to do just this by specifying the particular knowledge and skills that Minnesota students will be required to learn in the disciplines of U.S. History, World History, Geography, Economics and Civics as required by Minnesota statutes.

These standards are written with the recognition that additional academic disciplines, Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology, have strong traditions of instruction in Minnesota schools. Schools may choose to continue teaching in these academic disciplines as local traditions, interest, and school priorities dictate.