

Teacher Background Questionnaire

2001
Grade 4

Part I: Background, Education, and Training

For several questions on this survey, you are asked to fill in numbers. For these questions, please print the appropriate number in each of the boxes provided. Please print legibly with a No. 2 pencil. Keep all printing within the boxes, and erase any stray marks.

Using one number per box, fill in every box. For example, 95 students would be written as:

VB333653

1. Counting this year, how many years have you worked as an elementary or secondary teacher? Include any full-time teaching assignments, part-time teaching assignments, and long-term substitute assignments, but not student teaching. If less than 4 months total experience, enter "00."

Years

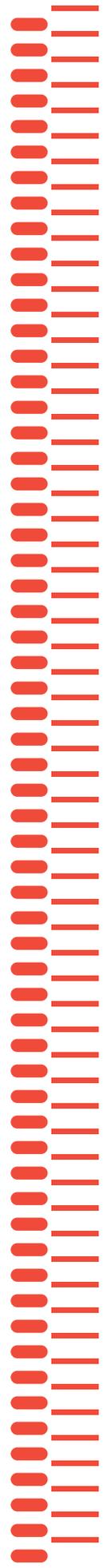
VB333654

2. What type of teaching certificate do you hold?

- A Regular or standard state certificate or advanced professional certificate
- B Probationary certificate (the initial certificate issued after satisfying all requirements except the completion of a probationary period)
- C Provisional or other type of certificate given to persons who are still participating in what the state calls an "alternative certification program"
- D Temporary certificate (requires some additional college coursework and/or student teaching before regular certification can be obtained)
- E Emergency certificate or waiver (issued to persons with insufficient teacher preparation who must complete a regular certification program in order to continue teaching)
- F No certificate

3. Did you have a major, minor, or special emphasis in any of the following subjects as part of your **undergraduate** coursework? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes, a major	Yes, a minor or special emphasis	No	
a. History or history education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB333659
b. Geography or geography education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB333660
c. General social science or social studies education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB334021
d. Other social science (for example, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, anthropology)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB334022
e. Reading, language arts, or literacy education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB378391
f. English	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB378392
g. Other language arts-related subject (specify) _____	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB378394
h. Elementary education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB334023





VB345619

4. Did you have a major, minor, or special emphasis in any of the following subjects as part of your **graduate** coursework? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes, a major	Yes, a minor or special emphasis	No	
a. History or history education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB345620
b. Geography or geography education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB374402
c. General social science or social studies education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB374403
d. Other social science (for example, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, anthropology)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB374404
e. Reading, language arts, or literacy education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB378395
f. English	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB378396
g. Other language arts-related subject (specify) _____	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB378398
h. Elementary education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB374405

VB374406

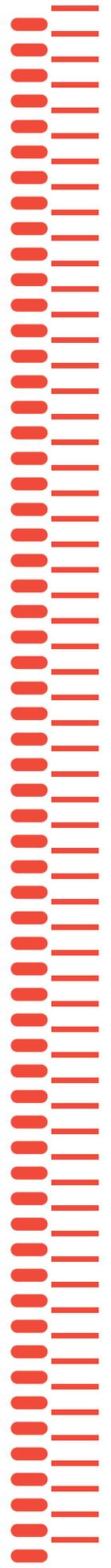
5. Regardless of whether you are currently teaching the following topics, how well prepared do you feel you are to teach each at the elementary school level? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Very prepared	Adequately prepared	Somewhat prepared	Unprepared	
a. Geography	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB374407
b. History	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB374408
c. Social studies	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB374409

VB334024

6. During the last two years, did you participate in or lead any of the following professional development activities **related to the teaching of history, geography, or social studies?**
Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Yes | No | |
|---|-----|----|----------|
| a. College course taken after your first certification | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334025 |
| b. Workshop or training session | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334027 |
| c. Conference or professional association meeting | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334028 |
| d. Observational visit to another school | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334029 |
| e. Mentoring and/or peer observation and coaching as part of a formal arrangement | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334030 |
| f. Committee or task force focusing on curriculum instruction or student assessment | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB374414 |
| g. Regularly scheduled discussion or study group | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB374415 |
| h. Teacher collaborative or teacher network (such as one organized by an outside agency or over the Internet) | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334033 |
| i. Individual or collaborative research | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334034 |
| j. Independent reading on a regular basis (for example, education journals, books, or the Internet) | Ⓐ | Ⓑ | VB334035 |





VB334036

7. Do you have special leadership responsibilities for social studies, history, or geography education at your school (for example, responsibilities as a mentor teacher, lead teacher, resource specialist, departmental chair, or master teacher)?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

VB334037

8. During the last 12 months, how many hours did you participate in formal training sessions to help you use computers as part of classroom lessons?

- (A) 0 hours → *Skip to Question 10*
- (B) 1 to 8 hours → *Go to Question 9*
- (C) 9 to 16 hours → *Go to Question 9*
- (D) 17 to 32 hours → *Go to Question 9*
- (E) More than 32 hours → *Go to Question 9*

VB334039

9. Was any of the computer training you had in the last 12 months specific to using computers for the following purposes? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes	No	
a. Using computers to teach history	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VB334040
b. Using computers to teach geography	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VB334141
c. Using computers to teach social studies	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VB334142

VB334145

10. How useful has each of the following been for helping you learn to use computers in instruction? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Very useful | Moderately useful | Somewhat useful | Not useful | Never did this | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Formal training through a class or workshop (such as a university course or a school- or district-wide in-service) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E | VB334146 |
| b. Teacher networks, study groups, or listservs (groups of teachers who communicate in person or over the Internet) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E | VB334147 |
| c. Informal tutoring or assistance | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E | VB334148 |
| d. Independent learning | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E | VB334149 |

VB334150

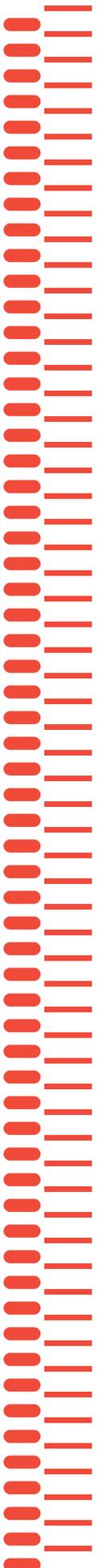
11. Is there a computer in your home that you use?

- A Yes
- B No

VB334157

12. To what extent do you use a computer at home or at school for the following professional activities? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Create instructional materials or write lesson plans | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB334158 |
| b. Maintain records on student learning (for example, grades, test scores, anecdotal records) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB334159 |
| c. Communicate with colleagues, other professionals, students, or their parents | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB334160 |





VB336001

13. To what extent do you use the Internet to find information for instruction (for example, to access model lesson plans, information on best practices, or source material to use in instruction)?

- Ⓐ Not at all
- Ⓑ Small extent
- Ⓒ Moderate extent
- Ⓓ Large extent

VB336002

14. Excluding time spent teaching students, how many hours did you use a computer during the last seven days? (Please include personal use, class preparation, etc.)

- Ⓐ 0 hours
- Ⓑ 1 to 5 hours
- Ⓒ 6 to 10 hours
- Ⓓ 11 to 20 hours
- Ⓔ More than 20 hours

Part II: Computer Resources and Technical Assistance in Your School

In answering the following questions, please refer to the classroom where you teach social studies. Social studies includes history, geography, world studies, and related subjects.

VB336003

1. How many computers are permanently located in your classroom? (Please include laptops permanently assigned to your students.) *If none, enter "00" and skip to Question 5.*

Number of computers =

VB336004

2. How many computers in your classroom are less than 3 years old?

Number of computers =

VB336005

3. How many computers in your classroom are connected to the Internet?

Number of computers =



VB336007

4. How would you rate each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	
a. Student-computer ratio in your classroom	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB336008
b. Power and capabilities of the computers in your classroom	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB336009
c. Availability of software in your classroom	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB336011

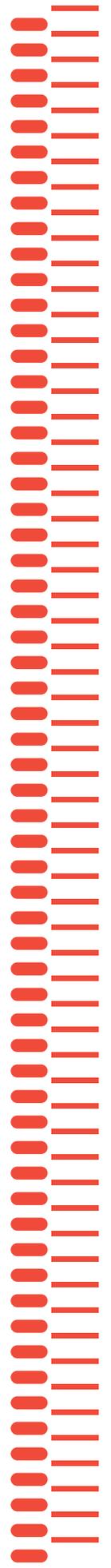
VB336010

5. On each of the following factors, how would you rate the computer resources available for student use but not permanently located in your classroom? (These computers might be located in a computer lab, library/media center, portable lab, or other area in your school.) Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	There are no such computers available for student use	
a. Amount of time that your students can use these computers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB336012
b. Flexibility of scheduling these computers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB336013
c. Number of computers available at any one time	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB336014
d. Power and capabilities of these computers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB336015
e. Availability of software	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB336016

6. Please indicate the availability of the following software for use with your students. Fill in **at least one** oval on each line.

	Available on computers in your classroom	Available as a shared resource in the school	Not available anywhere in the school	
a. Word processing programs (such as Word, Word Perfect, ClarisWorks)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336018
b. Spreadsheet or database programs (such as Excel, Filemaker Pro, Access)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336019
c. Drawing or graphics programs (such as KidPix, Photoshop, Painter, Illustrator)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336020
d. Programs for creating presentations or projects (such as PowerPoint, HyperStudio)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336201
e. Desktop publishing programs (such as Framemaker, Pagemaker)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336202
f. Web page development software (such as Pagemill, FrontPage, Home Page)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336203
g. Simulation or exploration software for social studies (such as Timeliner, Oregon Trail)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336204
h. Drill and practice programs or tutorials for learning social studies facts (such as GeoBee, Knowledge Munchers)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336205
i. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VB336206



7. The last time you had a problem with a school computer, how long did it take someone from technical support to come to investigate the problem?

- Ⓐ I have never needed technical support.
- Ⓑ Less than 1 school day
- Ⓒ 1 to 2 school days
- Ⓓ 3 to 4 school days
- Ⓔ 1 to 2 weeks
- Ⓕ More than 2 weeks
- Ⓖ No technical support is available.

8. How would you rate the technical support available in your school to help teachers with each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	No support or poor support	Fair support	Good support	Excellent support	Don't know	
a. Routine computer use (for example, printing, file management)	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓔ	VB336209
b. Using the Internet	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓔ	VB336210
c. Identifying appropriate software for use with your students	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓔ	VB336211
d. Learning to use new software	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓔ	VB336212

Part III: Classroom Organization and Social Studies Instruction

The following questions ask about the organization of your classroom and social studies instruction. Social studies instruction includes history, geography, world studies, and related topics.



1. How many students are in your class?

VB336213

Number of students =

2. How many of the students in your class are limited English proficient?

VB336214

Number of students =

3. How many of the students in your class receive special education services?

VB336215

Number of students =

4. Which best describes your role in teaching social studies?

VB379251

- Ⓐ I teach all or most subjects, including social studies.
- Ⓑ The only subject I teach is social studies.
- Ⓒ We team teach, and I have primary responsibility for teaching social studies.

5. Which best describes how social studies instruction is organized?

VB336261

- Ⓐ Social studies is taught primarily as a discrete subject with little or no integration with instruction in other subjects.
- Ⓑ Some social studies instruction is integrated with other subjects, and some social studies instruction is presented as a discrete subject.
- Ⓒ Social studies lessons are primarily integrated with instruction in other subjects.



VB336263

6. About how much time in total do you spend with your class on social studies instruction in a typical week?
- Ⓐ Less than 30 minutes
 - Ⓑ 30-60 minutes
 - Ⓒ 61-120 minutes
 - Ⓓ 121-180 minutes
 - Ⓔ More than 180 minutes

VB336264

7. During what percentage of your social studies instruction time is your primary focus on each of the following subjects? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	None	1-10%	11-40%	41-60%	61-90%	More than 90%	
a. U.S. history	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	Ⓕ	VB336265
b. Geography	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	Ⓕ	VB336266

VB379352

8. To what extent do you use state or local standards for history, geography, or social studies to plan your instruction?
- Ⓐ Not at all
 - Ⓑ Small extent
 - Ⓒ Moderate extent
 - Ⓓ Large extent
 - Ⓔ We have no state or local standards that apply to teaching social studies to this class.

VB374416

9. How often do you engage your class in the following types of activities when teaching social studies or United States history? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Almost
every day | Once or
twice a
week | Once or
twice a
month | Never or
hardly ever | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| a. Reading material from a textbook | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB374417 |
| b. Reading extra material not in the regular textbook (for example, biographies or historical fiction) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB374418 |
| c. Using primary historical documents, letters, diaries, or essays written by historical figures | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB374419 |
| d. Writing a report | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB374420 |

VB374421

10. How often do you teach the following skills and topics as a part of geography instruction with this class? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Almost
every day | Once or
twice a
week | Once or
twice a
month | Never or
hardly ever | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| a. Using maps and globes | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB378382 |
| b. Natural resources (for example, oil, forests, and water) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB378383 |
| c. Foreign countries and cultures | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB378384 |
| d. Environmental issues (for example, pollution and recycling) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VB378385 |

VB345618

11. About how much geography homework do you assign a student in this class each week?

- A None
- B 1/2 hour
- C 1 hour
- D 2 hours
- E More than 2 hours



VB336272

12. When you teach social studies, to what extent do you use the following to present information to students? Recall that the definition of social studies being used here includes history, geography, world studies, and related topics. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Computer with display device to project images	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB336273
b. Videos, television programs, or videodisc programs	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB336274

VB336276

13. When your students work on social studies, to what extent do they use computers to do the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Look up social studies information in CD-ROM reference works (for example, atlases, almanacs, encyclopedias)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB336278
b. Locate and retrieve social studies information through the Internet	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB336277
c. Use exploration or simulation software to “experience” history or geography	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB336279
d. Write social studies reports using word processing	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337061
e. Create social studies presentations or projects using specialized software (such as PowerPoint, HyperStudio)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337062
f. Organize social studies information using spreadsheets or databases	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337063

VB337066

14. To what extent does each of the following limit your use of computers for teaching social studies? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Poor or inoperable computers	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337068
b. Lack of training opportunities to build your technical skills	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337071
c. Lack of time for students to use computers during the school day	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337073
d. Concerns about unsupervised use of the Internet	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337074

VB337076

15. Please indicate the extent to which you **AGREE** or **DISAGREE** with the following statements. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
a. There is less meaningful discussion in a class when computers are used for instruction.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337078
b. It is hard to integrate computer activities into my social studies curriculum.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB378386
c. Teachers cannot spend the time needed to develop students' computer literacy and still cover the required curriculum.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB337241