



# Clayton County Public Schools

## Department of Social Studies

MORCEASE BEASLEY  
Superintendent of Schools

REGINA WALLACE  
Coordinator, K-12 Social Studies

2017-2018 School Year

Clayton County Public Schools is not responsible for the views expressed in the documents used in the Document Based Questions (DBQ) program implemented through the Department of Social Studies. According to the historical thinking skills developed by the National Center for History in the Schools, students must understand multiple perspectives, which means learning about historical events and people that have diverse views. In order to teach students how to “think like a historian,” we must expose our students to historical documents with viewpoints that are different from their own viewpoints and even our own viewpoints. The teacher must provide a historical context that allows students to think critically about multiple perspectives and help them understand the historical setting of each document. The 5th Grade Social Studies Georgia Milestone assesses all of the aforementioned skills, and we must do our due diligence to prepare students to be successful by exposing them to the DBQ process.

Clayton County Public Schools acknowledges parents’ rights to not have their children engage in learning about certain topics, and the teachers in collaboration with the principal and parents may provide appropriate standards-based alternative assignments for those students.

America’s history, as well as the world’s history, is full of controversial events that are difficult to understand and that evoke a variety of emotions among adults and children. Those events will continue to show up in our state standards. Remember, it is our job as social studies educators, among other things, to 1) provide students the opportunity to learn about history and current events using the content standards, 2) afford students the opportunity to learn about multiple perspectives, 3) teach students to critically think about how historical trends manifest into current events and systems, and 4) to support students in the learning process as they determine the beliefs and ideals they will adhere to for their lives.

Regina Wallace  
Academic Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies  
Clayton County Public Schools  
[Regina.Wallace@clayton.k12.ga.us](mailto:Regina.Wallace@clayton.k12.ga.us) /404.670.5180