

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**
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Grade 8 US Government and Civics Textbook Pilot Summary Report

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In June 2018 the Massachusetts Department of Education adopted new History and Social Science Frameworks. The Worcester Public Schools developed a three year roll out plan to implement the new framework standards, beginning with Grade 8 US Government and Civics for the 2018-19 school year.

To support curriculum alignment to the new standards, the district piloted new texts and online resources during the 2018-2019 school year. During the pilot process, teachers and students utilized hard copy textbooks, online textbooks, reading supplements and additional online materials. Teachers explored the ease of accessing online resources, integration with Clever, Chromebooks and Google and alignment to the Massachusetts Framework Standards. All piloting teachers received professional development/training on the materials as well as varying levels of support from the vendors throughout the school year.

In addition to feedback from the piloting history teachers, the district sought feedback from district IT specialists, Focused Instructional Technology Coaches, Focused Instructional Coaches, Special Education teachers, Alternative School teachers, and Title III EL Implementation Coach and ELL teachers.

Publisher	Piloting Schools
McGraw Hill	Burncoat Middle School and Forest Grove Middle School
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Sullivan Middle School and UPCS
National Geographic	Claremont Academy and Worcester East Middle School

RESULTS:

McGraw Hill was the most recommended resource. The panel cited the following reasons for their decision:

- McGraw Hill customized a new textbook to align with the new frameworks
- Sign in through Clever- neither of the other publishers used Clever and student/teacher sign ins was difficult