



# Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom

A Survey of Florida Elementary School Teachers

---

Florida Association of Social Studies Supervisors

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship

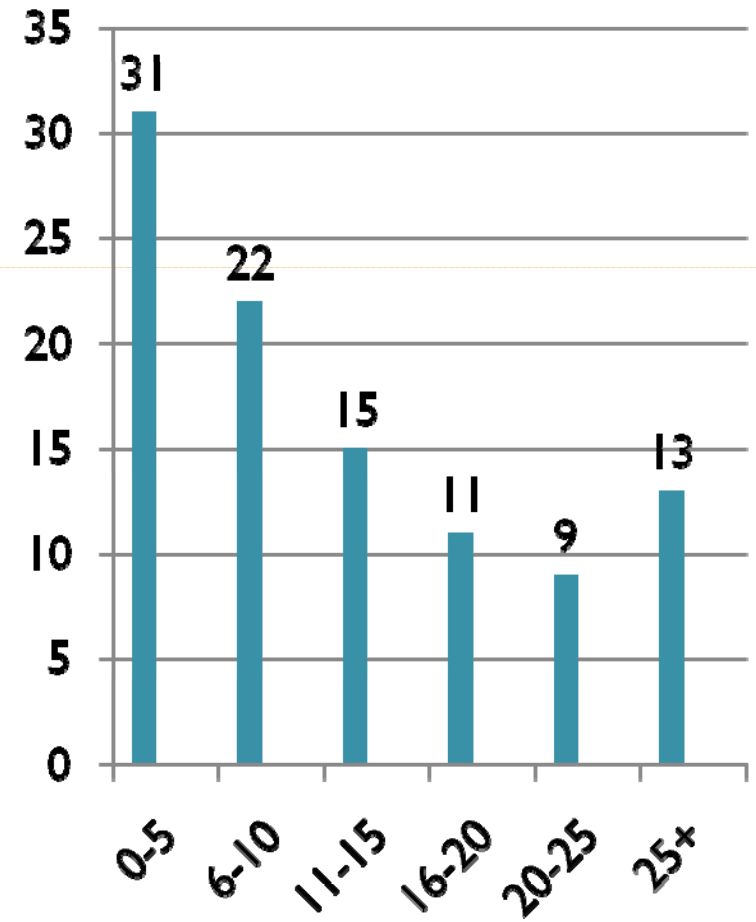
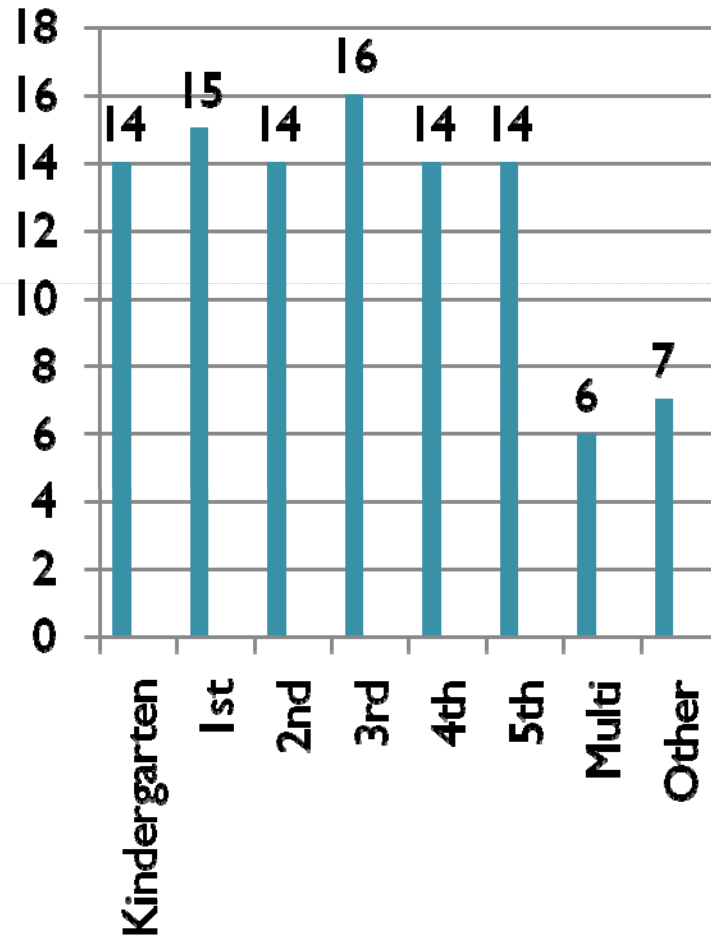
November 2008



# Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom

- Survey instrument designed by social studies district supervisors
- Districts asked to randomly select 10 percent of elementary schools and request teacher participation
- 1602 elementary teachers responded
- Responses are from all grade levels and experience levels

# Grade Level & Experience



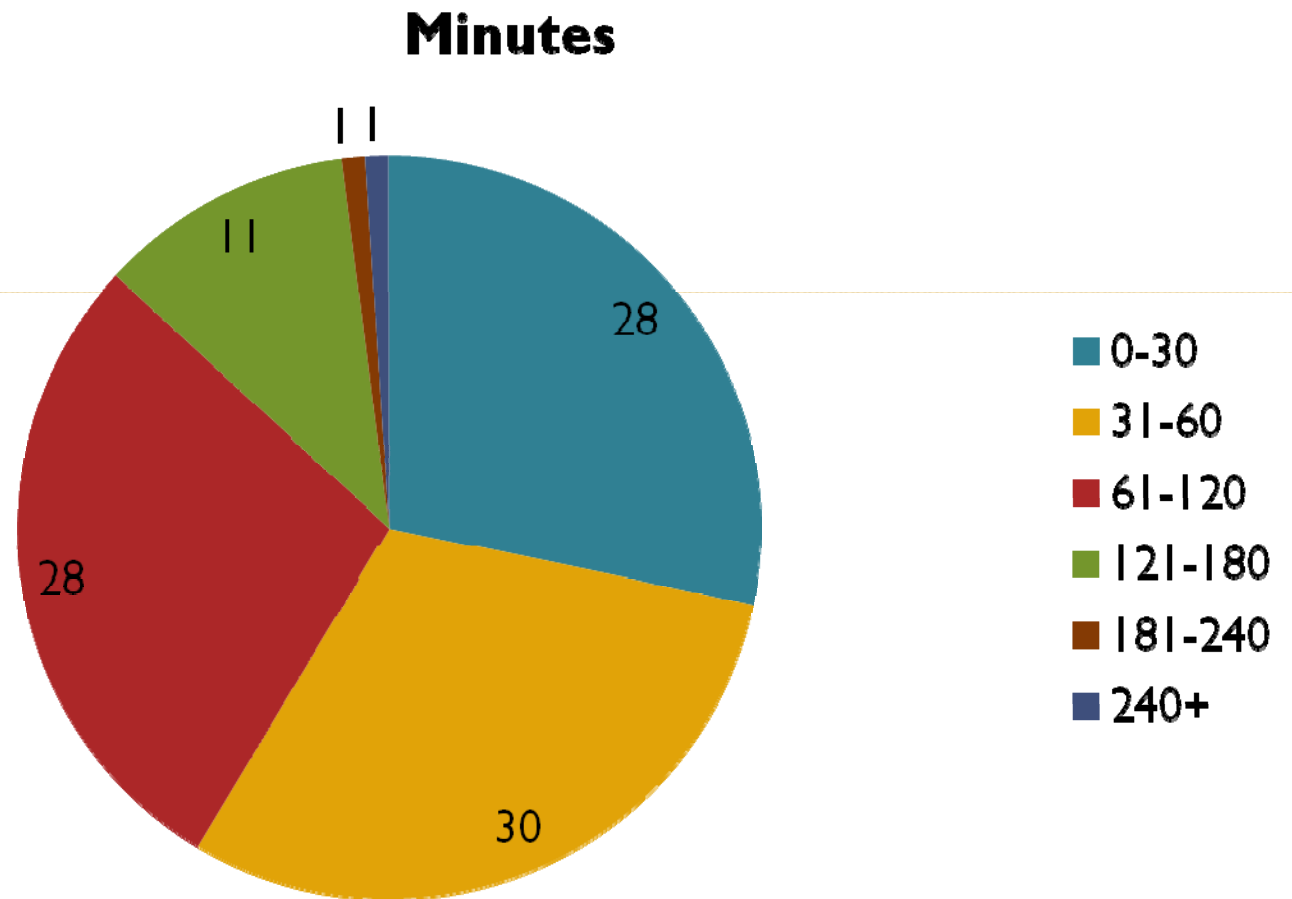


# Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom

- Key Findings

- Over a quarter of elementary teachers spend less than 30 minutes per week on all social studies subjects combined (*equals 6 minutes per day*)
- Over half (58 percent) spend an hour or less (*equals 12 minutes per day*)
- The average elementary school teacher in Florida spends about 51 minutes a week, or 10 minutes a day, on all social studies
- Time spent on social studies has decreased since the last statewide survey

# Minutes of Instruction per week on Social Studies





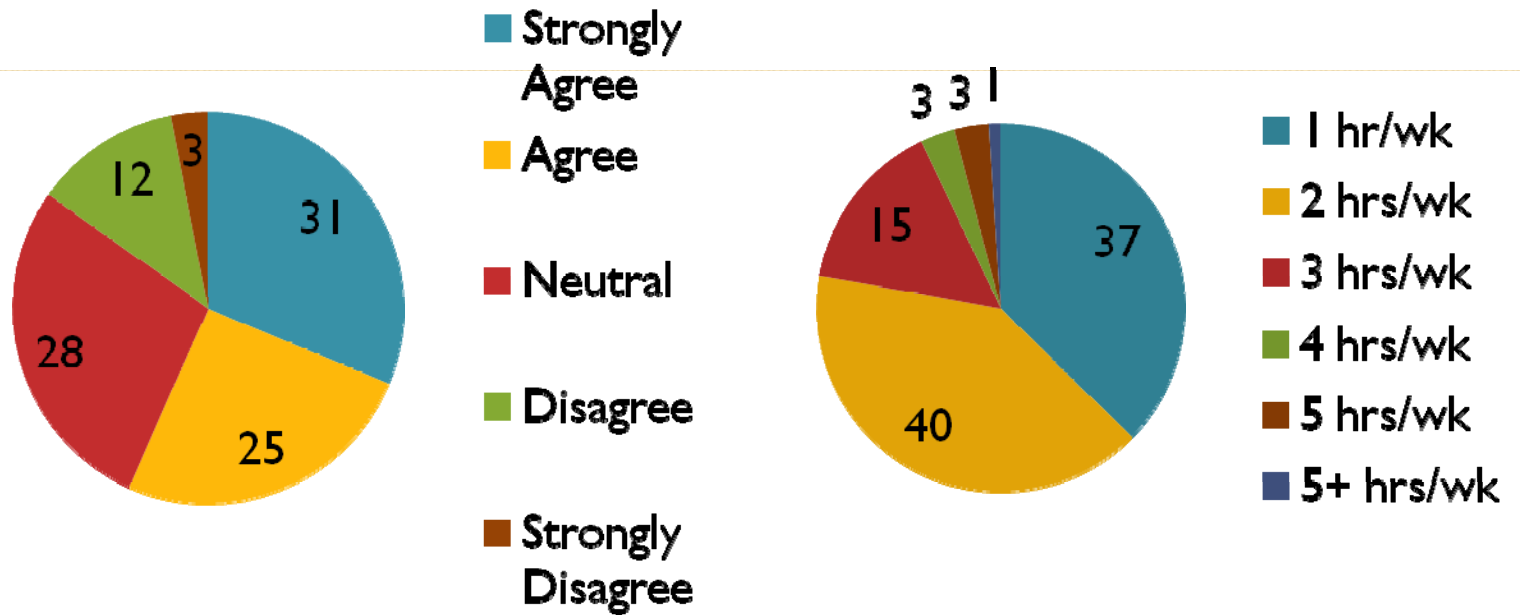
# Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom

- Key Findings
  - A majority of Florida's elementary teachers report that instructional time devoted to social studies has decreased since the implementation of the Science FCAT
  - 77 percent estimate the decrease in instructional time devoted to social studies to be one to two hours per week

# Have Minutes Teaching Social Studies Decreased Since FCAT/How Much?

## Minutes Decreased

## How Much





# Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom

- Key Findings

- Over 6 out of 10 elementary teachers (61 percent) report that time devoted to science instruction has increased since the implementation of the science FCAT
- The vast majority of teachers (85 percent) report that assessment of student performance in social studies is not done on either a school- or district-wide basis. Rather, it is left to individual teachers.