

## **RESOLUTION #14-02-1**

### **NCSS TO SUPPORT IN IDENTIFYING, DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES FOR K-12 CLASSROOMS**

**SPONSORS:** Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies

**CO-SPONSORS:** Arizona Council for the Social Studies; Association of Teacher of Social Studies/United Federation of Teachers, New York City

**RATIONALE:** Several states have developed state-wide testing or charged school districts to develop benchmark standards-based assessments to measure practices that have an impact on student learning, growth, and achievement. However, some states have indefinitely suspended the statewide assessment test for social studies and are, therefore, unable to provide reliable student academic performance and growth data to insure that social studies is taught and to inform more effective instruction in the social studies.

**WHEREAS:** school districts are expected to identify, develop, and implement a system to assess and measure student learning, growth, and achievement in all grades and subject areas, including the social studies and to insure that social studies is taught; and

**WHEREAS:** high quality assessments can provide teachers pertinent student test performance data to inform better instruction in the social studies; and

**WHEREAS:** high quality assessments are necessary to insure that social studies is taught; and

**WHEREAS:** to ensure validity and reliability of student assessment performance results, data must be gathered for at least two years to determine plausible patterns and trends in student learning over time; and

**WHEREAS:** assessments must be carefully designed and balanced in order to measure student competencies in content topic knowledge in the social studies and in applying skills in critical reading, writing, analyzing, problem solving, and higher order thinking to prepare students for college, career, and civic life in a twenty-first century globalized society;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that NCSS support, endorse, and promote high quality comprehensive benchmark assessments that can measure student academic learning, growth, and achievement in the social studies, particularly for school districts in states where statewide comprehensive assessments in social studies are being reduced, lacking or virtually non-existent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that NCSS endorse, promote, and support professional development opportunities for administrators and teachers to develop and implement benchmark assessments in the social studies, including but not limited to U.S. history, world history, geography, civics and government, economics, psychology, sociology, and contemporary issues; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that NCSS identify and offer high quality teacher-created benchmark assessments in social studies, which school administrators and K-12 teachers can explore, pilot, and elect to adopt and implement in their school districts.

## **RESOLUTION #14-04-1**

### **INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT THE U.S. BORDER**

**SPONSORS:** The New York State Council for the Social Studies (NYSCSS) and The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers, New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC)

**CO-SPONSORS:** Minnesota Council for the Social Studies

**RATIONALE:** The current influx of unaccompanied child refugees at the U.S. border is an international humanitarian crisis that should be addressed by NCSS as a professional association devoted to the teaching of social studies issues and civic life, including humanitarian concerns.

**WHEREAS:** the current influx of unaccompanied children at the U.S. border is an international humanitarian crisis in desperate need of attention; and

**WHEREAS:** thousands of young lives are in jeopardy as children seek refuge, fleeing communities overrun by organized crime, violence, human trafficking, and persecution; and

**WHEREAS:** the number of unaccompanied children at the border, which was 5,200 in 2012, has swelled to more than 52,000 this year, and it could reach 90,000 or more; and

**WHEREAS:** children have been forced into overcrowded detention centers with unsanitary conditions; and

**WHEREAS:** children have consistently reported being held in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions beyond the legally mandated 72-hour period; and

**WHEREAS:** complaints, including allegations of abuse and mistreatment while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), sexual assault, beatings, racially and sexually charged comments, and death threats, have been registered; and

**WHEREAS:** administrative complaints have been filed by a number of civil liberties and immigrant rights organizations, including the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) and the ACLU Border Litigation Project, with the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as well as with the DHS Office of the Inspector General, the department's only mechanism for seeking redress, on behalf of more than 100 unaccompanied immigrant children; and

**WHEREAS:** the issues involved are social studies issues, aligned with the NCSS adopted C3 Framework on Civic Life, and within the scope of NCSS concerns;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that NCSS applaud the work of civic leaders, clergy, refugee and immigrant rights groups, labor, and other community organizations to ensure that children's health, educational, safety, and legal needs are being met, while awaiting decisions on their cases; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that NCSS, as a representative of those who teach and care for our next generation, strongly condemn any ill treatment of children in the detention centers, and urge authorities to put the safety and well-being of children first.

(Note: Statistics and details in the resolution above were adapted from an American Federation of Teachers Resolution passed at the AFT Convention in Los Angeles in July, 2014.)

### **RESOLUTION OF COURTESY AND COMMENDATION #14-05-1**

#### **RECOGNITION OF NCSS PRESIDENT MICHELLE HERCZOG**

WHEREAS: Michelle Herczog has worked tirelessly to advance the cause of social studies education in California and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS: she has been an advocate *par excellence* for quality standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the social studies for many years; and

WHEREAS: she has become known nationwide as an articulate, persuasive, and forceful spokesperson for the social studies teachers of the United States and their students; and

WHEREAS: as an affiliate member of the Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction Committee of the Council of Chief State School Officers, she assisted with the development of the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards; and

WHEREAS: she has employed her formidable leadership skills without hesitation to raise national awareness of the importance of social studies in her roles as a member of the Board of Directors, Vice President, President-Elect, and President of the National Council for the Social Studies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the National Council for the Social Studies formally recognizes and thanks Dr. Michelle M. Herczog for her service and dedication to the worldwide social studies community, and especially the membership of NCSS.

### **RESOLUTION OF COURTESY AND COMMENDATION #14-15-2**

#### **RECOGNITION OF THE 94TH NCSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP**

WHEREAS: the 94th annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies is held in Boston, Massachusetts, during November 21-23, 2014; and

WHEREAS: the conference theme is "Let Freedom Ring: The Civic Mission of School"; and

WHEREAS: Conference co-chair Norm Shacochis, Local Arrangements co-chairs Gorman Lee and Ron Adams, the Local Arrangements Committee, the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies, and the staff of the National Council for the Social Studies have worked tirelessly to ensure a schedule of richly rewarding educational experiences, professional development opportunities, and field studies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the National Council for the Social Studies formally recognizes and thanks all those whose time, talents, and treasure helped make the 94th NCSS annual conference "a wicked good time!"