

**California Council for the Social Studies  
Government Relations Committee Meeting  
August 27, 2016**

**HSS and State Level Policies**

Numerous attempts to include HSS in the LCAP guidelines has not been effective. The reluctance on the part of the Governor and the CDE reflects district concerns about too much testing and regulations. A letter from DOE regarding “well-rounded education” has not garnered support for increased focus on HSS. Because HSS is not tested, it gets put on the bottom of the pile. If we can make sure that HSS gets in the LCAP, we would have more opportunity to become involved in the discussion and bring H/SS to the forefront. LCAP discussions could become an avenue to make sure message gets out there that social studies is important and fits into the LCAP.

Right now it is discretionary whether or not H/SS becomes part of the LCAP plans. ESSA only requires ELA, math and 3 levels of science. At this time CDE is accepting only what is required by ESSA. HSS assessment is still in flux. WestEd recommended that the state and the districts maintain minimum requirements. State Superintendent Torlikson wanted to include civics, but was unclear on the grade levels. Last edition of SSR provides concrete ideas of projects and ways of holding districts accountable for including social studies in their LCAP. SSR also provides ways in which districts could develop ways of assessing the success of projects.

There are resources that districts are being provided with that are supposed to be going to humanities, specifically social studies. Funding streams are provided at state and federal levels for social studies, and the money is increasing. We need to provide our teachers with some of those funding streams so they can begin to tap in to them for social studies. What will state do to broaden curriculum in the humanities to support social studies? Fred contacted Bill Honig and he forwarded it on to Tom Adams, but he has not yet responded to Fred’s request.

Have teachers/districts look at SSR and pull information into three columns:

- What are schools and districts already doing?
- What are next steps?
- How are those next steps going to be paid for?

Cricket Kidwell will continue to consult with Fred Jones about how to maintain a running dialogue with state policy makers and influencers to keep HSS in the spotlight.

**CCSS Confab 2017**

- Focus of Confab meeting is on advocacy and collaboration among HSS organizations and groups. Practice the rhetoric that Cricket creates (if time permits). Perhaps a time during the breakfast where we do a short interactive practice on advocating. Find someone who is influential at the government level that we could pull into the social studies fold. We are looking for someone who will move our mission forward.

- CCSS Confab 2017 - Great meeting!
- Ideas were flowing and the toolkit idea was the result
- Excellent participation of partner groups
- Great Resources: Social Studies Review issue on Accountability (Spring 2016), CCSS LCAP Toolkit Talking Points Document, CCSS Position Statements

### **Suggestions for the Committee**

- Missing from website page: Develop another bullet that talks about how we “Support our membership with information, resources and tools to advocate for high quality social studies at local, state and national levels.” Make this the third bullets for a total of 6 bullets on the governmental relations page.
- Get CCSS LCAP Toolkit Talking Points to administrators who already support social studies would be a good idea
- Make a concerted effort to get those printed SSRs to the hands of people who really want to incorporate social studies curriculum into LCAP. Give school boards a copy of the toolkit. If, then, the district shows an interest, then get them a copy of the SSR. Fred and Cricket will work together to adjust the toolkit and add an introduction that clarifies how various stakeholders can use it. Give it to every superintendent in the state.
- Make the CCSS LCAP Toolkit more readily available on the website
- CCSS Government Relations committee page needs to be easily accessible to the public that includes the toolkit and materials necessary for advocacy. Increase communications about our accomplishments and resources
- CCSS and the committee needs to stay on top of standards revision, assessment issue and best avenue to make sure H/SS gets into the assessment bundle; On-going work with Fred Jones is essential.

**Frances L. (Cricket) Kidwell, Ed.D.**  
**CCSS Governmental Relations Committee Chair**