



California Council for the Social Studies
AN AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

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August 20, 2009

Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Ducheny:

The California Council for the Social Studies (CCSS) is deeply concerned with Governor Schwarzenegger's recent elimination of funding for the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission and its work on revising curriculum frameworks, item 6110-001-0001 of the 2009-10 state budget amendments.

As president of the California Council for the Social Studies and current member of the National Council for the Social Studies, I am well aware of the importance of the frameworks in guiding *what* and *how* we teach every student in every subject area. The History-Social Science Framework, recently completed by the Framework Committee includes a number of updated critical areas needed for effecting teaching and learning:

- powerful examples of authentic assessment that provide students with multiple vehicles for demonstrating knowledge and understanding of historical concepts;
- discussion of culturally relevant content and instruction to help close achievement gaps;
- literacy and English Learner strategies to help students access rigorous expository text, expand academic vocabulary, and improve reading comprehension skills across all subject areas;
- advances in civic education and service-learning approaches to help students apply historical understanding to current issues and problems in society as responsible members of our democratic society;
- strategies for integrating the Education and the Environment Initiative to develop environmental stewardship for future generations;
- an updated list of resources and professional organizations to support teachers' ongoing professional development and instructional practices, and;
- appendices that address the growing need for understanding world history and cultures, the need for an actively engaged citizenry, the importance of geographic literacy, and clarification about the importance of teaching about religion in a constitutionally permissible manner within the history-social science curriculum.

We urge you to do all you can to reinstate the process for revising the History-Social Science Framework and all other Frameworks as scheduled. Up-to-date Frameworks are indispensable for California educators to continue the important work of providing today's students and future generations with the education they need to become informed, responsible, engaged citizens, equipped to meet the demanding challenges of the 21st century.
Sincerely,

Cheryl Rehome Dean

Cheryl A. Rehome-Dean
President