

Missouri Council for the Social Studies Legislative Report
October 14, 2017
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State Legislative Issues:

- Currently state legislature is not in session
- Important Upcoming Dates:
 - December 1, 2017: Pre-Filing of bills can begin
 - January 3, 2018: New legislative session opens

Continuing Updates from DESE:

The Missouri Civics Education Initiative, passed by the Missouri legislature and signed by Governor Nixon in June 2016, requires any student entering 9th grade after July 1, 2017 to pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics.

The law states that the examination shall consist of 100 questions similar to the one hundred questions used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and may be included in any other examination that is administered on the provisions and principles of the United States and the State of Missouri, and in American history and American institutions.

The full text of the law can be found at

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/pdf-bill/tat/SB638.pdf>

So what does that mean for Missouri Social Studies?

- We will continue with the current Government EOC exam and the voluntary American History EOC exam.
- Local districts will assure compliance.
- School districts may use an online test to comply. See <http://joefossinstitute.org/citizenship-survey/> for ideas.
- Districts may choose to create a crosswalk of the USCIS questions and their existing American Government, Missouri Government and American History assessment, and then to amend those assessments to comply with the USCIS content. Districts are encouraged to maintain the crosswalk and adjustments as verification of content assessed. The USCIS site testing materials are available at <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test>

National Legislative Issues:

HR 1474- Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act-No Change since July meeting

This bill amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Department of Education (ED) to award competitive grants to educational organizations to carry out proposed or existing Holocaust education programs. ED may contract with a nonprofit organization to encourage, accept, and administer private donations and gifts for funding the education programs. Grants may not be used to supplant nonfederal funds the grantees would otherwise have used for Holocaust education programs.

Bill Tracker: [HB 1474 Bill Tracker](#)

HR 1706- No Update since July Meeting

This bill authorizes the Department of Education to provide grants for public awareness education programs on the history of the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II. In awarding such grants, priority shall be given to Italian American historical and cultural organizations.

Bill Tracker: [HB 1706 Bill Tracker](#)

Advocacy News from the National Council:

Dear Advocates for Social Studies,

As you know, the President's proposed FY 2018 education budget includes devastating cuts to education programs. The proposed budget does not include any funding for current programs we have successfully advocated for in the past:

- American History & Civics National Programs
- Congressional & Presidential Academies
- Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants

Please visit <https://www.socialstudies.org/news/presidents-fy-2018-budget-request> to learn more about each program and its current funding.

House Appropriations Subcommittees have started to hold budget hearings and will be drafting their spending bills very soon. The late start in the FY 2018 federal budgeting cycle is likely to lead to a fast-paced, compressed budgeting process.

Time is of the essence - Please act now!

We recommend you personalize the e-mail sample below before sending it so that your message is unique to your local context (your Representative's district). This process is quick and easy and should take about 5 minutes to complete. Then, you can automatically encourage family members, colleagues, and friends to visit our online NCSS Action Center and provide their support for social studies, too! You don't have to be an NCSS Member to use the NCSS Action Center and urge your Representative to support high-quality instruction in civics, economics, geography, and history.

In addition, humanities programs have also been proposed for elimination by the President's proposed FY 2018 budget. These humanities programs are a vital component of social studies education. We encourage you to visit the National Humanities Alliance's legislative action center at <http://p2a.co/kVFEeav> to advocate for continuing the funding of those programs.

Make your voice heard today - and then share the NCSS Action Center link with your colleagues through e-mail and social media. You can make a difference!

Thank you for partnership and voice for social studies education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Law Paska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Law" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Paska".

Lawrence M. Paska, Ph.D.
Executive Director
National Council for the Social Studies

***Each member can be using the [NCSS Action Center](#) to:**

- 1. Find the US Representative in your district to contact.**
- 2. Use NCSS' pre-written email or letter to advocate for NCSS' budgetary concerns.**
- 3. Check out tips for ensuring your message advocates well for your position.**
- 4. Share this message on social media bringing awareness to the budgetary needs for Social Studies education in the United States.**

Legislative Resource of the Quarter:

This quarter's Legislative Spotlight features the [Center for Legislative Archives Education Resources](#) from the National Archives and a series of lessons on the [Six Big Ideas of the Constitution](#). Each lesson focuses on the ideas of limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and popular sovereignty. Each lesson can be used as a stand alone to enhance how you are already teaching the Constitution or can be used as a series of lessons in a Government or US Constitutional Law course. The Center for Legislative Archives features numerous additional resources in the form of eBooks, apps, and lesson plans for a variety of Legislative Issues including: fundamental principles of the Constitution, the Constitution in History, and Congress. Check out all this great resource has to offer!