

# 2010 NCSS House of Delegates Resolutions

*The House of Delegates (HOD) provides a forum for the general membership of NCSS, as represented by state councils, communities, and associated groups, to bring ideas, principles, beliefs, and actions regarding social studies education to the attention of the Board of Directors. Resolutions are the framework through which the NCSS membership at-large makes recommendations to the NCSS Board of Directors.*

*Any NCSS member can submit a resolution for consideration following the guidelines established in the House of Delegates manual [www.socialstudies.org/about/ncss\\_house\\_of\\_delegates](http://www.socialstudies.org/about/ncss_house_of_delegates). Resolutions are debated and voted on during the second session of the HOD meeting at the NCSS annual conference. Resolutions that are passed by the HOD are discussed and voted on by the NCSS Board of Directors following the NCSS annual conference at the Board's spring meeting. During this meeting, the Board discusses each of the resolutions to determine if it will help the Council reach its short and long-term strategic goals. Staff begins working on implementing the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors as soon as possible and feasible during the current and incoming fiscal years. Following are a list of resolutions that were passed by the House of Delegates in 2010.*

## Resolution 10-1-1

### Promoting Citizenship through Philanthropy

Sponsor: Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies

Cosponsor: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers – New York City (ATSS/UFT), New York State Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS NCSS advocates for an educated and actively engaged citizenry, who explores the causes, consequences, and possible solutions to persistent, contemporary and emerging local, national, and global issues;

WHEREAS NCSS fosters the educational literacy of interdependence among individuals, groups, and nations;

WHEREAS NCSS promotes student understanding about local, national, and global issues of public concern from multiple points of view;

WHEREAS NCSS encourages the understanding of empathy through the analysis of perceptions, attitudes, values and beliefs of personal, community, and national identity;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS continue to promote a more planet friendly conference through Going Green\*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCSS continue to set an example of expectation for conference “give aways” for state and local councils,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NCSS should incorporate philanthropic “give aways” within the construct of the NCSS Conference [i.e., promoting sustainable development, Going Green, Paying-it-Forward (see the Wisconsin Conference “give aways”)]. These philanthropic “give aways” can and should be a reflection of the humanitarian nature promoted by the educational leadership of the NCSS Board of Directors, membership and standards we teach to our student body. The funds raised for the “give aways” should support

the main cause, i.e., people, at a level of no lower than 80%.

HOD Passed: 98.68% in favor, 1.32% against

## Resolution 10-2-1

### Advocating for Social Studies in State Standards and Common Core Standards

Sponsors: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers – New York City (ATSS/UFT), New York State Council for the Social Studies

Co-sponsors: Connecticut Council for the Social Studies, NCSS Assessment Community

WHEREAS NCSS has historically and consistently promoted an education system that offers all students—irrespective of neighborhood, race, class or cultural heritage—to achieve a high, common standard for what they are expected to learn and be able to do;

WHEREAS NCSS has been deeply involved in the standards movement to ensure that all students learn what they need, to compete in the global economy and to be active citizens in our democracy;

WHEREAS NCSS has advocated that reaching the goal of high student achievement requires the adoption of common state standards that prepare students for college and career readiness and citizenship in the 21st century. This includes rich and challenging core curricula in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies; quality early childhood education; teacher education and professional development; diagnostic, formative and summative assessments; and specialized interventions for students whose learning styles demand differentiated instruction;

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Education has supported the adoption of common core standards as crucial to the improvement of schooling in our nation and has agreed to fund the development of aligned summative assessments based on those standards;

\* NCSS Resolution #08-01-3 [2008] *STEWARDSHIP FOR OUR PLANET: GO GREEN*: BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCSS make every effort to reduce, reuse and recycle in its publications, conferences, meetings and daily operations by enacting a formal Green Policy. Passed: NCSS 2008 HOD and BOD.

Going Green—Going green is a popular term used to describe the process of changing one's lifestyle for the safety and benefit of the environment. People or companies who “go green” make decisions about their daily interactions while considering what impact the outcome of those decisions may have on global warming, pollution, loss of animal habitats, and other environmental concerns. There are three changes most people/companies make to “go green.” They begin sustainable living, use environmentally friendly (or green) products, and they begin recycling and/or reusing as many products as possible. [www.thegreenguide.com/](http://www.thegreenguide.com/) [Original note attached to Resolution 10-1-1]

WHEREAS many states have signed on to create common core standards in mathematics and language arts, as a sound first step, and with standards for other disciplines in development in many states;

BE IT resolved that NCSS encourage states, and advocate within states that social studies be included in their common state standards;

BE IT FURTHER resolved that NCSS help affiliated and associated groups by preparing materials to help them encourage and advocate for the inclusion of social studies in the common state standards of their respective states;

BE IT FURTHER resolved that NCSS work with the U.S. Department of Education and members of the United States Congress to encourage and advocate the inclusion of social studies in common state standards.

**HOD Passed:** 98.62% in favor, 1.38% against

### **Resolution 10-2-2**

#### **Development and Dissemination of Implementation Examples to the newly published *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment***

Sponsor: The Canada Community

Co-Sponsor: Southern California Social Science Association

WHEREAS the *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies* has recently been revised and published in 2010; and,

WHEREAS this volume offers a framework for meeting the Standards; and

WHEREAS the *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies* cannot contain every possible example for classroom implementation; and,

WHEREAS it is not economically feasible to revise and reprint on a frequent basis to include such examples;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS Communities, Associated and Affiliated Groups and Councils be afforded the opportunity to submit examples to this volume, and that these submissions be available to NCSS members via a specific location on the NCSS website related to this volume;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCSS Communities, Associated and Affiliated Groups and Councils submit the examples as early as a webpage/location can be practicably developed, and that the submissions be accepted on an ongoing basis.

**HOD Passed:** 98.62% in favor, 1.38% against

### **Resolution 10-3-1**

#### **Development of Inquiry-Based Pedagogy in Common State Standards**

Sponsors: Connecticut Council for the Social Studies

Co-Sponsors: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers – New York City (ATSS/UFT), New York State Council for the Social Studies, Tennessee Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS an educated citizen must have sufficient knowledge and skills to contribute to both one's local community and a wider world;

WHEREAS controversy, discourse, debate, compromise and differences of opinions and values are all part of the democratic

experience;

WHEREAS the world beyond the classroom confronts all citizens with controversial issues and opinions that some might find objectionable;

WHEREAS the social studies classroom is an appropriate environment for the consideration of differing points of view;

BE IT RESOLVED as common state standards for social studies are developed, NCSS would continue to support social studies standards that challenge students to explore a range of points of view when considering historical interpretations and contemporary issues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NCSS should seek to develop and support social studies standards that encourage students to research and evaluate evidence, analyze and debate alternative viewpoints, and reach defensible conclusions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NCSS should collaborate with its partners in developing common state standards for social studies to make every effort to encourage diverse perspectives, alternate viewpoints and inquiry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NCSS should provide regular reports to its membership on the adoption and implementation of common state standards that support and promote inquiry for both teachers and students.

**HOD Passed:** 100% in favor, 0% against

### **Resolution 10-04-1**

#### **Teaching about anti-Semitism today**

Sponsors: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers – New York City (ATSS/UFT)

Co-Sponsors: New York State Council for the Social Studies, Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS NCSS provides materials for teaching about genocide, and violations of human rights in the world today;

WHEREAS NCSS encourages the teaching of values of all religions and respect for;

WHEREAS NCSS includes Holocaust Education prominently at its annual conference program;

WHEREAS anti-Semitism did not stop with the ending of the Holocaust more than 60 years ago;

WHEREAS bombings and attempted bombings of synagogues, desecrating and painting of swastikas on synagogues and other buildings in Jewish neighborhoods, and physical attacks on Jews in a number of communities is unfortunately a fact of life in United States, Europe, South America and other parts of the world;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS include in its conference program a workshop or speaker on teaching about current anti-Semitism, violation of a human right and respect and understanding of all religions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCSS include in its publications, material on teaching about current anti-Semitism.

**HOD Passed:** 90.91% in favor, .09% against

*Courtesy resolutions were also passed in recognition of the service to the social studies community of NCSS President Steve Goldberg, NCSS Past President and Conference Co-chair Peggy Altoff, and the Local Arrangements Committee Co-chairs Dorsee Johnson-Tucker and Chris Elnicki.*