Social Studies Collaborative

The Social Studies collaborative harnesses the collective wisdom of state leaders and national experts to explore opportunities and address challenges within the field of social studies. The Social Studies collaborative focuses on identifying, developing, and sharing high-quality educational resources that support student and professional learning through rigorous standards, engaging curriculum, balanced assessments, effective professional development and attention to equity. Members in the collaborative also receive updates on legislative trends and policy issues that are likely to impact social studies so that state leaders are equipped to plan and respond effectively.

The group offers three in-person meetings that are supplemented periodically by online meetings and webinars that sustain and extend the work. Members of the Social studies collaborative tend to be state specialists for social studies within the state education agency.

2017-2018 Achievements:

In the 2017-2018 program year, the Social Studies collaborative met with national experts and engaged with other CCSSO groups in cross collaborative work. Examples include the following:

- Professional learning on:
  - Elementary social studies education,
  - Integration of social studies and language arts,
  - Assessment literacy for social studies educators,
  - Formative assessment,
- High-quality social studies lessons & presentations that can be used for professional learning by members back in their states, districts, or departments.

- Guest Speakers
  - Jeffrey Nokes, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University
  - Dusty Shockley, Education Associate, Delaware Department of Education
  - Elizabeth Hinde, Professor, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado
  - Bruce VanSledright, Professor, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
  - Tina Heafner, Professor, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

2018-2019 Goals

- Work on briefs that promote importance of social studies education.
- Develop a toolkit to assist SEAs in the common challenge of getting social studies taught in elementary schools.
- Begin construction of a bank of high-quality social studies instructional resources (lessons, units, assessments, professional learning workshops).
- Develop a rubric to evaluate the quality of social studies resources.
- Develop a walkthrough tool for school administrators and others who supervise social studies educators.
Connection to Equity

A focus on equity is central to CCSSO’s 2017-2020 strategic plan and our work with our members. CCSSO and state chiefs are committed to each child—regardless of background—graduating ready for college, careers, and life. In 2017, CCSSO and the Aspen Institute released *Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs*, which set forth ten commitments and a series of actions state chiefs can take to advance equity. Each of CCSSO’s collaboratives is a venue for working with national experts and collaborating with peer states to identify concrete strategies for advancing relevant commitments found in the report. Equity will play a major role in the agenda of the collaboratives over the next membership year. Examples of equity commitments from *Leading for Equity* the SSACI collaborative addresses through its work are:

- **Equity Commitment Number 7, Part C** Ensure that all students have access to high-quality instructional materials.
- **Equity Commitment Number 9, Part A** Measure and improve school culture as one important aspect of closing achievement gaps.

Biography of Advisor

**Fran O’Malley** is the Associate Director (Social Studies) of the Professional Development Center for Educators and a policy scientist for the Institute for Public Administration’s Democracy Project at the University of Delaware. Over the past twenty-five years, Fran has worked on state level projects that involve him in the development, revision, and implementation of state standards, curriculum, and assessments. He participated as an affiliate in the SSACI group that developed the C3 Framework and currently serves as a member of Delaware’s Professional Standards Board.

Before joining the University of Delaware, Fran taught social studies at the middle and high school levels during which time he earned numerous awards including Delaware State Teacher of the Year, Delaware History Teacher of the Year, the Harry J. Carman Award, and the Award of Honor from the Middle States Council for the Social Studies.

CCSSO Liaison:

**Steve Bowen** serves as the Deputy Executive Director for State Leadership at CCSSO. In his role, he directs the activities of the membership services, leadership academy, advocacy, communications, data and information services, and the collaboratives teams. Steve oversees the development, support, and implementation of programs and services designed to support our primary member groups (chiefs, deputies, federal liaisons, communications directors and public information officers) and ensures all membership events and services are aligned with state priorities. Steve is also a former state chief, having served as the Commissioner of Education in Maine from 2011 to 2013.

2017-18 State Members:

DC, DODEA, DE, HI, IA, ME, MD, MI, MO, NE, NC, OH, SC, UT