LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Following are the final updates to bills introduced during the 2019 Legislative Session.

**Assembly Bill (AB) 331** titled, *Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies*, would require that students complete a one-semester ethnic studies course as a requirement for graduation. The course can be a HSS or an ELA course, and must be taken during grades 9–12. The course would be based on the model curriculum, currently in revision at the California Department of Education (CDE), and would begin as a requirement in the 2024–25 school year. The bill is held on suspense.

**AB 493** titled, *Teachers: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) pupil resources and training*, contingent upon funding, would require the CDE to annually provide online in-service training to grade 7–12 teachers, and to all other certificated employees at least once every two years. The bill was approved by the Governor on October 12, 2019.

**AB 1036** titled, *Elections: civic outreach and voter engagement*, would create a High School Voter Education Pilot Program to be conducted in Yolo County. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on October 13, 2019.

**AB 1393** titled, *Pupil instruction: model curriculum: Laotian history and cultural studies*, was amended to add Laotian history and cultural studies to the model curriculum in Hmong history and cultural studies required by Education Code (EC) Section 33540.6. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on October 12, 2019.

**AB 852** titled, *Pupil instruction: academic content standards: update of adopted standards*, states that by January 1, 2021, before the scheduled revision of a curriculum framework, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), in consultation with the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), will make a recommendation to the State Board of Education (SBE) regarding the need, or lack of need, to revise the content standards in the subject of the curriculum framework that will be revised. The bill establishes a process for how content standards in all subjects would be updated. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on October 12, 2019.

**AB 773** titled, *Voter registration: high school pupils*, would make the last two full weeks in January and September “high school voter education weeks.” Additionally, the bill would require local education agencies to
offer students the opportunity to register or preregister to vote during a presentation or assembly on a high school campus. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on October 7, 2019.

Content, Literacy, Inquiry, and Citizenship Project

A reminder that the Content, Literacy, Inquiry, and Citizenship (CLIC) Project website is up and ready for use! The new website houses videos, resources, and materials generated for the CLIC Project. Keep a look out for trainings in your region. Locate your regional leads on the new website by clicking the “CLIC Leads” link at the top of the landing page.

State Seal of Civic Engagement

The draft criteria for the State Seal of Civic Engagement will undergo revisions over the next several months in addition to edits requested by the SBE in September. Specifically, the Educator Excellence and Equity Division and the Analysis, Measurement and Accountability Reporting Division will work together to develop a pathway to the College and Career Indicator, which will be incorporated into the draft criteria and presented again to the SBE in Spring 2020.

Ethnic Studies

The proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum will undergo revisions and will be brought back to the SBE in Spring 2020. This provides the CDE time to consult with ethnic studies experts, meet with district officials who have successfully implemented ethnic studies curricula, and get feedback from teachers and other stakeholders.

A second panel of Ethnic Studies practitioners convened October 15, 2019, as part of the process of informing this work, specifically how a traditionally taught college-level course could be successfully implemented in kindergarten through grade twelve (k−12). Panelists shared examples of their own experiences and also the work of successful implementation occurring in schools around the state. The CDE will soon conduct “Learning Sessions” around the state to gather more input from the field.

Upcoming Funding

The Governor signed the state budget on June 27, 2019, which includes funding for the California School Leadership Academy (CSLA) and the Educator Workforce Investment Grant Program. The Educator Workforce Investment Grant Program funding includes the following:

- $5 million for Special Education
- $10 million for implementation support of the EL Roadmap
- $22 million for professional development relating to School Climate/Social Emotional Learning/Restorative Justice, Computer Science, and Ethnic Studies

Additionally, the CDE was recently awarded the federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant. The funds will be used to leverage and expand existing statewide infrastructure, guidance, and expertise to bring coherence to the system of literacy supports to improve student outcomes over a period of five years.

To support the CLSD work, the CDE will work with stakeholders to develop a state literacy plan and will distribute no less than 95 percent of the grant funds to 11 regional awardees through a competitive grant process. Using the state literacy plan as a framework, the awardees will support local educational agencies (LEAs) within their regions to develop their own literacy plans. The goal is to impact every student and teacher in California’s public and private k−12 schools and early childhood education programs, with an emphasis on low-income and high-need students.

To prepare for this work, the CDE will soon be disseminating a comprehensive statewide literacy needs assessment, which will inform the state literacy plan. The CDE encourages LEA teams to respond to this literacy needs assessment to support the development of a robust, supportive state literacy plan. Stay tuned for an invitation to participate in this literacy needs assessment by December 2019. To read the proposal in its entirety, click here.
Civic Learning News and Resources

Applications are open for the 2019–20 Civic Learning Awards! There are three levels: Awards of Excellence, Distinction, and Merit. Winners are selected from each grade span by a panel of experts based on the depth and breadth of their civic learning classes, clubs, and programs. Awards of Excellence winners will receive a personal visit from the Chief Justice! Applications are due by January 17, 2020. Find more information and the application here.

Election 2020 is almost here, and KQED’s Above the Noise is preparing to create videos designed to help viewers understand important election-related topics and issues. They are calling on educators and students to help them by submitting debatable questions that they can help answer. Click here for more information. Additionally, KQED is hosting a “Youth Media Challenge: Let’s Talk about Election 2020.” This opportunity for middle and high school students lets them put their persuasive skills to work and have a real audience for the issues that matter to them most. Sign your students up so that they can participate in a national conversation – they can record their commentary in a video or audio file, and select pieces will even be featured on PBS and NPR member stations! Make sure to get your classes involved!

Project Citizen is an interdisciplinary curricular program that promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program helps students learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES

Upcoming Conferences and Trainings

California Council for Social Studies: The California Council for Social Studies (CCSS) is hosting their 2020 conference in Costa Mesa on February 28 through March 1, 2020. Their theme for this conference is “A 2020 Vision for Social Studies: Preparing Today’s Students for College, Career, and Civic Life.” Early bird registration is still open, so make sure you register today!

Additionally, the CCSS Award Nominations are now open! Submit your nomination today as a way to show your appreciation and gratitude to those who have led the way, blazed the trail, transformed lives, and inspired us daily. Honorees receive recognition and awards at the CCSS Annual Awards Celebration in Costa Mesa on February 29, 2019. Nominate people for professional awards, specialized educator awards, and diversity and social justice awards. The nomination deadline is December 1, 2019.

Webinar Opportunity: The National College Testing Association at the Five College Center for East Asian Studies is offering a webinar titled “Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War,” with author Susan Southard. December 10, 7–8 pm EST.

Teaching Abroad: Make sure to take advantage of these opportunities to teach in Asia. Teaching Nomad helps match U.S. teachers with schools in China, South Korea, and Taiwan, as well as Southeast Asia, providing personalized support to new international teachers. For more information, contact Madison Walker at madison.walker@teachingnomad.com.

History-Social Science Project Conferences: The History-Social Science Project is hosting a conference series on “Teaching the HSS Framework.” Conference participants will enjoy extended sessions with ample time for discussion and sharing with teaching colleagues, scholars, and teacher educators. You'll be able to choose from more than 20 different Framework-related topics, including the FAIR Act, world history, Native Californians, and special sessions designed specifically for elementary teachers and school administrators. Click here to see the full list of sessions and scheduled presenters. The dates and locations are as follows:

- December 16, 2019 – CSU East Bay
- February 5, 2020 – Riverside Convention Center
- April 15, 2020 – UC Davis Conference Center
- May 2020 (specific date TBA) – CSU Dominguez Hills
- September 2, 2020 – Shasta County Office of Education
**Census Trainings:** Please remember that there are **free** Census trainings across the state for grades 5, 8, 11, and 12, all designed to teach students about the US Census and to get them excited to advocate for a complete count in 2020. The last ones scheduled for this year are November 15 and December 10. [Register here.](#)

**Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Rollout:** The California NGSS Statewide Rollout for Environmental Literacy is a two-day professional learning opportunity geared toward grades K–12 academic coaches, administrators, curriculum leads, and teacher leaders. Get more information and register [here.](#)

**Online Content Project:** The 2019–20 school year marks the second year of the [K-12 Online Content Project](#), where supplemental educational content is provided for all public schools at no cost to the LEA. Students can access Britannica, TeachingBooks and the suite of resources from ProQuest as part of this California State Library and Riverside County Office of Education effort.

Training sessions are being offered at different locations throughout the state to help teachers, library staff, administrators, educational support staff and parents better understand what learning tools are being made available through these online offerings.

The final scheduled training is on [November 12 in Stockton](#) from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

You can [check here](#) to see if your district has signed up for access to these resources, as not every district has taken advantage of this statewide project. If you have further questions about this project and the trainings, reach out to Mary Beth Barber by email at [marybeth.barber@library.ca.gov](mailto:marybeth.barber@library.ca.gov) or 916-323-9758.

**Regional Offerings**

**Southern California Area**

**History Labs:** these workshops feature a talk by an esteemed historian on a topic related to their research. Educators will also have an opportunity to explore a framework-aligned lesson that highlights literacy and have time to create classroom activities using the research and resources provided by the historian.

**Family Life & Culture of Enslaved Peoples in Early America** on December 12, 2019 at UCLA

**The Feminism & Activism of Women of Color, 1940-1990** on February 7, 2020 at UCLA

**FAIR Act Trainings:** Senate Bill 48 (2011), the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act, updates references to certain categories of persons and additionally requires instruction in social sciences to include a study of the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other cultural groups, to the development of California and the United States. These trainings will provide instructional strategies and resources to effectively implement the FAIR Act.

- **November 12, 2019** lead by Our Family Coalition at LACOE in Downey, CA
- **December 5, 2019** lead by Our Family Coalition at San Bernardino West End Educational Service Center
- **April 29, 2020** lead by Facing History and Ourselves at Ventura County Office of Education
- **May 7, 2020** lead by Facing History and Ourselves at Los Angeles County Office of Education
- **October 7, 2019** lead by Facing History and Ourselves at Point Loma Nazarene, San Diego

**Civic Learning for All:** A major theme of the California HSS Framework centers on building civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions to prepare all young people for civic life. This training, on [December 4, 2019](#), will provide approaches and resources to foster civic engagement of young people. Training is located at Riverside County Office of Education and is led by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Civic Action Project and Mikva Challenge.

**Trainings Hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)**

**Teaching about the Armenian Genocide:** AB 1915 and Senate Bill 1380 of 2014 enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act. This training, on [January 14, 2020](#), is led by The Genocide Education Project and will provide support to meet the requirements.
**Latino Leaders Speak: Personal Stories of Struggle and Triumph:** The Latino Leaders Network and California Global Education Project are leading this FREE curriculum workshop for Ethnic Studies, US History, Civics, and more. Learn about a collection of 33 short stories of national Latino heroes, leaders, and role models that will inspire students to dream big, get prepared, and get ready to lead America in the 21st Century. Free copies of the book and accompanying curriculum will be made available to all participants. Register [here](#).

Held on November 16, 2019 at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes.

**Bracero Program Trainings:** The LACOE, supporting the CLIC Project, is also offering the several free opportunities for learning about the Bracero Program, titled “The Bracero Program: Economic and Cultural Impact in California with Support for English Learners.” Instruction in social sciences for grades 7–12 includes a component drawn from personal testimony of Braceros. This training provides background information, resources, and strategies to teach young people about the Bracero Program and instructional strategies to assist English learners and struggling readers to access complex texts. The day-long training will occur on the following dates and locations:

- November 4, 2019 at [Kern County Superintendent of Schools](#)
- November 6, 2019 at [Point Loma Nazarene, San Diego](#)
- November 7, 2019 at [Ventura County Office of Education](#)

**Northern California Area**

UC Berkeley is offering several professional learning opportunities:

- [Community Convening - Integrated Action Civics](#) on November 6, 2019
- [Community Convening - Ethnic Studies](#) on February 12, 2020
- [Community Convening - Making History](#) on March 11, 2020

**Central California Area**

Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) offers the HSS Region 5 Community of Practice CLIC Project. October 22, 2018–April 24, 2020 (7 days during this time period) from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the MCOE

**INSTRUCTIONAL AND OTHER RESOURCES**

The Association for Asian Studies has recently updated its website, including the Education about Asia page, which now features a new easier-to-search platform for the journal’s archive. Check it out [here](#).

Check out Edutopia’s article “[The Bill of Rights through the Lens of Dystopian Tales](#)” to learn how a teacher helps students compare the freedoms lost in dystopian novels with the freedoms secured by the Bill of Rights. Also make sure to read Edutopia’s article on “[Helping Refugee Students Feel Safe](#)” to ensure that your classroom is a safe and secure place for all students.

Finally, as you’ll see down below, November is California Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month. The Sikh Coalition offers professional development, tools, and resources to teachers to help build Sikh awareness, create more inclusive classrooms, combat bias and bullying, and increase cultural competency. Check out their [website](#) for an educator’s guide, resources and lesson plans, handouts and posters, and learn how you can request professional development sessions from their organization.

**SIGNIFICANT DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **November 1** California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month
- **November 1** National Native American Heritage Month
- **November 5** Election Day
- **November 11** Veteran’s Day
- **November 28** Thanksgiving Day

To subscribe to our electronic mailing list, send a blank email to [join-history-social-science@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:join-history-social-science@mlist.cde.ca.gov).
Follow us on Twitter @CaEdGlobal and @CaEdHSS

CDE’s History-Social Science Professional Learning & Curriculum Resources

Don’t forget! Archived HSS newsletters are now available! To view the archived newsletters, visit the CDE’s Collaboration in Common (CiC) California Social Studies Collection. A login is required, but there is no fee, and you will have access to all of the resources on CiC. A link to the CiC Collection can also be found on the CDE’s HSS web page.

We would love to hear from you! Let us know of any events and/or resources you would like to see included in the next edition of the newsletter. Contact Aileen Allison-Zarea by email at AAllisonZarea@cde.ca.gov.