NCSS Resolutions: An Overview

A Crash Course in Writing and Submitting Resolutions to the 2019 NCSS House of Delegates

Why Resolutions?
Generating Resolutions
Writing a Resolution
2019 Resolutions Timeline

Megan List,
2019 House of Delegates Resolutions Chair
RESOLUTION #18-01-1
BUILDING STRONGER RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS

RESOLUTION #18-01-2
URGING NCSS TO EXPLORE THE INTEGRATION OF ITS CONTEMPORARY POSITION STATEMENTS, MISSION AND POLICIES INTO OFFICIAL GUIDES TO ALL OFFICIAL SOCIAL STUDIES RELATED STANDARDS, FRAMEWORKS AND GUIDES

RESOLUTION #18-02-1
SUPPORT OF CURRICULAR PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS AND FOR THEIR RESPECTFUL TREATMENT

RESOLUTION # 18-03-1
ADVOCATING IMPROVED HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY RESOURCES

RESOLUTION #18-04-5
EXPRESSING THE COMMITMENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES AND ITS MEMBERS TO RESIST FURTHERING OR LEGITIMIZING THE DETENTION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN OR THEIR SEPARATION FROM THEIR FAMILIES, IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC LAW, AND TO EMPLOY THE SKILLS OF CIVIC LITERACY TO HELP STUDENTS EVALUATE AND RESPOND TO ACTIONS BY ANY GOVERNMENT THAT VIOLATES FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Purpose of a Resolution

Article X. Resolutions

House of Delegates Manual, Section 1.

Resolutions represent the principles, beliefs, and actions that the general membership of the NCSS, as represented in the House of Delegates, recommends to the NCSS Board of Directors.
Purpose of a Resolution

To provide a voice for the membership to guide the NCSS Board of Directors in the following areas:

1. Current or future NCSS business operations
2. Social studies education
3. History and social science inquiry
4. Relevant social and political issues
5. Courtesy and commendation
Resolutions Process

✓ Written by Communities, Associated Groups, Affiliated Councils, and individual NCSS members.
✓ Submitted to NCSS for consideration usually after they have been approved by the leadership of the authoring group.
✓ Voted on at the House of Delegates meeting at the NCSS Annual Conference.
✓ Discussed and considered by the Board of Directors the following spring.

The NCSS Board of Directors will consider each resolution adopted by the HOD, but may decide not to implement one or more of them.
Why Resolutions?

As a whole, resolutions represent:

• the **voice** of your group in NCSS and social studies education;

• the **opportunity** to relate local/state concerns to the larger membership of NCSS;

• an appropriate means by which to **model** the democratic process in NCSS.
Generating Resolutions

• What are the significant issues that are worthy of NCSS attention or action at this time?

• What issues have an impact on social studies educators at the local and/or state level?

• What are the current and future priorities of NCSS?

NCSS Strategic Plan: www.socialstudies.org/about стратегический план

Collaboration  Communication
Innovation   Inclusiveness
Influence & Leadership
Generating Resolutions

• What recommendations can be offered to support NCSS and its membership?
• How can the actions of NCSS improve the teaching and learning of social studies?
• Are there issues in my state or special interest group that are not already addressed?
• Are there issues that NCSS is not effectively addressing that need more or different action?
• What do my constituents (i.e. state, committee, and affiliated group members) feel is important to social studies education?
Writing a Resolution

1. TITLE – a concise and accurate description of the subject of your resolution

A.) What is the subject of your resolution? This can be general or specific (e.g., Advocacy or ESSA reauthorization assessment recommendations).

B.) List resolution SPONSORS and CO-SPONSORS

Sponsors—groups (e.g., Affiliated Councils, Associated Groups, Communities) or individuals who authored the resolution

Co-Sponsors—groups that did not contribute to writing the resolution, but desire formally to support it
2. **RATIONALE** - identifies a perceived need and states the case for the adoption of the resolution. Keep it short: generally no more than a single sentence.
3. PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES ("WHEREAS")

- Create a basis for the resolution, give a brief history or background of the subject, and possibly include mention of previous resolutions.
- Educate about the issue.
- Are usually limited to no more than 5 or 6 clauses.
- Can be positive or negative in tone, but should be factual and not just opinion or conjecture.
Writing a Resolution

4. OPERATIVE CLAUSES ("BE IT RESOLVED")

• Call for some action as the main part of a resolution.
• State the purpose of the resolution, especially expressions of collective sentiment.
• Promote civil discussion through careful wording (rather than acrimony engendered by poor wording and/or political disagreement).
Writing a Resolution: Notes

1. In the *preambulatory clauses*, discuss the topic/issue’s history and other current issues regarding it.
2. Refer to previous NCSS actions and/or resolutions on the topic when possible.
3. In the *operative clauses*, include phrases that seek to solve the problem rather than just make statements.
4. Avoid inflammatory language – get your group’s position articulated and adopted without criticizing opposing groups.
5. Take into account the views of other groups whenever possible.
6. Write the resolution from a social studies point of view, not just in “glittering generalities.”
7. If necessary or appropriate, refer issues to already existing bodies, i.e. avoid suggesting the creation of new bodies or entities.
8. Avoid duplicating existing NCSS resolutions and ongoing activities on an issue.
Writing a Resolution: Checklist

✓ How effectively is the purpose of the resolution articulated?

✓ Is the resolution clearly and concisely worded?

✓ Does the resolution follow the appropriate format?
  • Rationale & Statement of Action
  • Statement relating to goals & purposes of NCSS
  • Statement relating to professional interests of NCSS

✓ Is the resolution thoughtful, purposeful, and carefully worded to encourage discussion of the issue – not the vocabulary itself?

✓ How does the resolution connect and extend the current priorities of the NCSS Strategic Plan?

✓ Has this or a similar resolution been considered previously? See https://www.socialstudies.org/about/hod

✓ Does the resolution represent the interests of my constituent group?
A Model Resolution – Why?

RESOLUTION #07-01-14

NCSS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISONS AT THE AFFILIATE LEVELS BY PROVIDING TRAINING AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sponsors: Colorado, California, Maryland, Oklahoma, Prince George’s County
Co-Sponsors: Oregon, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Texas

RATIONALE: The current National Council for the Social Studies body is in need of legislative liaisons who identify and monitor critical issues and engage in pro-active media and public relations in a timely manner as they relate to educational policy and programs that impact social studies education on the local, state and national levels.

WHEREAS: It is essential to have communication between NCSS and the state and local affiliates on critical issues to support the advancement of social studies as they relate to educational policies, and;

WHEREAS: Training is essential to the creation of effective legislative liaisons;

BE IT RESOLVED, NCSS should encourage and support the establishment of legislative liaisons at the affiliate levels who will monitor critical issues and engage in pro-active media and public relations in a timely manner as they relate to educational policy and programs that impact social studies education by providing training sessions for legislative liaisons at the annual conference facilitated by NCSS staff.
Reminders

- Each resolution will be reviewed, edited, and numbered by the NCSS House of Delegates’ Resolutions Committee.  
  **OUR JOB IS TO CLEAN IT, NOT TO CHANGE IT!**

- Finalized resolutions will be introduced in the House of Delegates at the NCSS Annual Conference.

- Resolutions passed by the House of Delegates will be reviewed by the NCSS Board of Directors the following Spring. Feasibility of implementation will be determined at that time.
A Possible Model

What challenges are facing your constituent group in resolution-writing?
A Possible Model

- Establish a Resolution Committee Chair, and a Standing Resolution Committee.

- Issue a Call for Resolutions to your members per timelines you set (and keep in mind the NCSS resolutions time line).

- Your Resolution Committee may write, edit, and amend resolutions submitted to it.

- The Resolution Committee submits edited resolutions to the Council’s Officers and Executive Board for a vote prior to submission to NCSS.

- The Resolution Committee reads, evaluates, and recommends resolutions for co-sponsorship to the council’s Executive Board for a vote prior to co-sponsorship.
A Possible Model

- Approval by the President, acting alone, while at the NCSS Annual Conference.
- Approval by the council’s appointed HOD delegates while at the NCSS Annual Conference, acting in caucus.
- Approval by the full Council Board, particularly at its Fall Board Meeting.
- Approval by Council Officers, if the resolution is received after the Fall Board Meeting, but before the NCSS Annual Conference.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resolutions Webinar</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Resolutions</td>
<td>Friday, May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolutions Due</td>
<td>Saturday, August 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review by HOD Resolutions Committee</td>
<td>September 1 - 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Resolutions Shared with Affiliated Councils, Associated</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups, and Communities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Sponsorships Due to NCSS</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review and edits by HOD Resolutions Committee</td>
<td>October 15 – 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Resolutions Shared with HOD Delegates</td>
<td>Friday, November 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Resolutions Hearing with HOD Resolutions Committee</td>
<td>Thursday, November 21 (5:00-6:00 PM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, November 22 (9:30-10:30 AM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Resolutions Discussion and Voting at the 63rd HOD Assembly (Austin, TX)</td>
<td>Friday, November 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed Resolutions Reviewed by the NCSS Board of Directors</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 NCSS Resolutions Contacts

Megan List, 2019 HOD Resolutions Committee Chair
megan.renee.list@gmail.com

Larry Paska, NCSS Executive Director
lpaska@ncss.org
JOIN US!

Early Bird Registration Now Open!
https://www.socialstudies.org/conference
THANK YOU!

National Council for the Social Studies
8555 16th Street, Suite 500
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 588-1800

@NCSSNetwork