

Social Studies PLC eBlast

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Hello Everyone!

Act 35 Reporting Requirement

The deadline for reporting your Act 35 data in the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP) has passed as of January 14. *If you have not yet submitted your data, please do so as soon as possible to ensure your LEA is in compliance with the legislation.*

As a reminder, the Act 35 legislation, effective the 2020-21 school year, requires each district, charter school, and comprehensive CTC to administer a locally developed assessment of United States history, government, and civics that includes the nature, purpose, principles and structure of United States constitutional democracy, the principles, operations and documents of United States government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship - at least once to students in grades 7-12.

The data to be collected in the FRCPP system includes:

- Type of the assessment administered
- Total number of students who took the assessment
- Total number of students who attained a passing grade on the assessment
- Grade level or levels in which the assessment was administered
- Course or course in which the assessment was administered
- Number of students scoring 100% on the assessment

Please gather this information for your submission. You can find more information on Act 35, including guidelines for accessing and submitting your data at [this page](#). Just scroll to the bottom of the page and open the “Act 35 Reporting Guidelines” document.

National History Day Needs Judges

National History Day (NHD) is seeking judges for regional and affiliate contests. Are you an NHD Alumni, a historian, humanities major, teacher, or librarian? Would you like to volunteer your time and expertise as a judge reviewing the impressive projects created by NHD students?

There are ample opportunities to volunteer and, as many of the contests are virtual, you may even sign up for contests in another region, too!

[Check out the opportunities here.](#)

Call for Participants: White House History Teacher Institute

At the White House History Teacher Institute (WHHTI), teachers will discover the wider history of this iconic building and explore how they can use these stories to enhance their classroom.

The virtual Teacher Institute will be held via Zoom on August 1-5. The program is open to all educators, regardless of prior acceptance or participation in any White House History Teacher Institute programming. [Learn more here.](#)

The Civic Network

The Civic Network is excited to share information with you about The Civic Network. The Civic Network is a self-directed learning platform that provides students with interactive opportunities to develop transpartisan civic skills, knowledge, and behaviors in any environment in collaboration with classmates. It's the civics that students want to learn, in the form they want to learn it, at the level of quality they demand. Educators decide what students are assigned--and can access--from a continually expanding menu of best-in-class civics content created/brought to you by leading providers *like the News Literacy Project, Videos For Change, and iThrive*. All in one place, sharing a common interface, increasingly comprehensive, integrated for achievement, and scaffolded with sophisticated student performance data to help you prepare, guide, and enlighten the next generation of civic leaders.

The Civic Network needs educator and student input to ensure this new platform is the most effective and efficient tool to get in the hands of teachers and students. To that end, The Civic Network is piloting with a limited number of diverse middle schools to run from now through June 2022. This pilot is free and will take about 1-2 hours of your time each week. In return, you will get easy access via Clever to 70+ learning experiences from 9 content providers with a dedicated school support specialist through the 6 month pilot.

Please reach out to Alex Logan, logan@citizensandscholars.org, if you would like to further discuss this opportunity to co-create this important civic learning tool for students and educators.

From InquirED

New webinar available. Questioning: The Key to Unlocking the Power of Inquiry in Social Studies

To practice inquiry in social studies, educators must craft powerful questions AND help students build their questioning power. To discuss these critical components of inquiry, the webinar included Warren Berger (journalist and author), Sarah Westbrook (Director of Professional Learning, The Right Question Institute), and Anthony Sievert (learning experience architect, inquirED). Read below for a summary and reflection and check out the recording [here](#).

National Council for Social Studies (NCSS)

Stay connected to initiatives and professional development opportunities from NCSS by subscribing to their newsletter "NCSS Smartbrief." You can [sign up here](#). Just scroll to the bottom of the link.

Ukraine-Russia Conflict Resources

The Georgia Department of Education has posted a new distance learning lesson to support educators with instruction regarding the war between Ukraine and Russia "[Conflict between Ukraine and Russia in 2022.](#)" This lesson (vetted by professionals in the field of Intelligence) is designed to allow students to explore the historical background of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia in 2022 and potential U.S. impact. It is written with connections to U.S. History, World History, and World Geography and is adaptable to each course. A direct link to the lesson is also posted on their [distance learning lessons page](#) under the "high school" section.

Russo-Ukrainian War: Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin significantly expanded on the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine by ordering airstrikes, artillery attacks, and the invasion of Russian

soldiers across Ukraine. See below for resources to help students understand this ongoing conflict, its historical context, and the role of the United States.

- [Russia and Ukraine Conflict at a Glance](#): This infographic includes a map and short, relevant pieces of information.
- [Ukraine Crisis Lesson](#) (Choices Program at Brown University): Multi-part lesson with resources to help students understand the current situation and historical context. The free resources include maps, video clips, political cartoons, as well as texts. Adaptable to different grade levels.
- [Holodomor Lesson](#) (Chris Murray, MCPS): This lesson was created by social studies teacher Chris Murray (Montgomery County Public Schools) in partnership with the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC) to help students learn the history of the Holodomor, the Soviet-inflicted starvation of 4-5 million Ukrainians during 1932-1933. The lesson provides useful historical context to understand the relationship between Ukraine and Russia and the development of Ukrainian nationalism during the 20th-21st centuries.
- [Conflict in Ukraine Resource Guide](#): This compiled list provides a range of resources to support instruction, discussion, mental health, and wellness when teaching the conflict in Ukraine.
- [Materials on Ukraine and Russia](#): The google drive folder includes materials about Ukraine and Russia shared on the Social Studies Network Facebook page.
- [Why is there a Refugee Crisis in Ukraine?](#) (Anti-Defamation League): Table talk resource to support discussing the crisis with children.
- [Understanding the Conflict in Ukraine](#) (Newsela): This link includes a text set and accompanying elementary/middle/high school lesson guides as well as several relevant articles, including [this one on NATO's role in the situation](#) and [this one on the Russian invasion itself](#).
- [Your kids are hearing about Ukraine. Here's how to help them understand](#). (Washington Post): This parenting post provides some practical suggestions for meeting kids where they are and equipping them with better information to help them make sense of the conflict from accurate and reputable sources.

Resources for Students: Talking About the Invasion of Ukraine

"Anything that's human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting and less scary." Fred Rogers
Pennsylvania PBS stations have assembled a collection of resources to support educators when talking with students about Ukraine. The site begins by sharing an essay from parenting columnist from PBS KIDS, Deborah Farmer Kris, who offers guidance on talking with young children. Included are resources for students to learn more about the history of Ukraine, as well as mental and emotional health resources. View the Resources [HERE](#).

Guidance for talking with children about war: Given the Russo-Ukrainian War but also other conflicts (e.g., Afghanistan, northern Chad), consider consulting the resources below for ideas of how to discuss violent current events with children.

- [Helping Your Students Cope with a Violent World](#): Edutopia article that features strategies for helping children make sense with historical perspective, feel empowered, and inspire them to feel hopeful.
- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War](#): Common Sense Media gathers tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the toughest topics.

- [Talking to Your Kids About War](#): VeryWell Family explores ways families can speak with young people about war, including tips on sharing information and restricting media coverage.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of elementary school children](#): This article from the American Psychological Association can help adults guide their young children beyond fear to resilience.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of middle school children](#): The American Psychological Association breaks out tips and strategies for parents and teachers of middle school-aged children.

Supreme Court Nominations

President Joe Biden recently nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Brown Jackson currently serves on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, having been nominated by President Biden last year from her previous role on a U.S. District Court. If confirmed by the Senate, Brown Jackson would be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, only the 3rd Black justice (after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas) and 5th woman on the high court. Check out these resources for talking with students about this potentially historic nomination.

- [How a High School Debate Team Shaped Ketanji Brown Jackson](#) (NY Times Lesson of the Day)
- [Supreme Court Nominations Lesson](#) (iCivics)
- [How Ketanji Brown Jackson found a path between confrontation and compromise](#) (Washington Post)
- [Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Daughter of Educators, Is Biden’s Nominee for U.S. Supreme Court](#) (Education Week)
- [Ketanji Brown Jackson and Supreme Court Nominations](#) (White House)

Various Award and PD Opportunities

[Gilder Lehrman’s National History Teacher of the Year](#): By **Saturday, April 30th**, nominate yourself or a colleague for Gilder Lehrman’s National History Teacher of the Year Award. State winners receive a \$1,000 prize, an archive of classroom resources, and recognition at a ceremony in their state, in addition to being entered into the national competition for a \$10,000 prize. For more information about this award, visit [the eligibility page](#).

[My Impact Challenge National Civics Contest](#): By **Monday, May 16th**, submit a citizenship project application to the Bill of Rights Institute’s National Civics Contest. Projects aligned to constitutional principles can win up to \$10,000 in prizes. Submission is open to U.S. citizens and US based young people between the ages of 13 and 19 years old on January 1, 2022-May 16, 2022. To learn more and for submission guidelines, [click here](#).

[2022 Virtual Belfer National Conference for Educators](#): On **June 27th-29th**, attend the 2022 virtual Belfer National Conference for secondary educators who are interested in teaching about the Holocaust. The conference features sessions that are designed for teachers who have limited experience teaching about the

Holocaust. Participants will also receive a free resource bundle. For more information and to register, [click here](#). For questions or more information, contact belferconference@ushmm.org.

[2022 Summer Professional Development Opportunities in Social Studies](#): The Council for State Social Studies Specialists (CS4), an affiliated group of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), compiled a list of high-quality professional development opportunities for social studies educators across the country. To view the list of opportunities [click here](#).

The Lou Frey Institute

The Lou Frey Institute promotes the development of enlightened, responsible, and actively engaged citizens.

The Institute works to accomplish its mission:

- Through civic education programs that encourage thoughtful debate and discussion about current policy issues;
- Through experiential learning programs that encourage the development of civic and political skills;
- By working to help strengthen the civic education capacity of Florida’s K-12 education system; and
- Through research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

National Personal Finance Challenge

The [National Personal Finance Challenge \(NPFCh\)](#) is a nationwide competition hosted by the Council for Economic Education that provides high school students the opportunity to build and demonstrate their knowledge of money management. Teams showcase their expertise in the concepts of earning income, buying goods and services, saving, using credit, investing, and protecting.

This fun and motivating team experience begins with competitions at the state level. The winning team from each state moves on to the National Semi-Finals from which the top-scoring teams advance to compete for the National Title. For spring 2022, the First Round National Challenge and National Semi-Finals will be held online. The four teams advancing to the National Finals will travel to New York City on an all-expense paid trip to compete in-person. [Learn how to participate on their website](#).

Trauma in Schools: Cultivating Resilience

[This series](#) focuses on cultivating resilience and showcases leaders, mental health practitioners, and school leaders who are working to lessen the impact of trauma that students bring with them to school across the Commonwealth.

The newest episode: [Nurturing the Emotionally Safe School Environment](#) has been released and features a conversation with Jeff Ikler around large-scale change to create trauma-informed systems.

Thank you for subscribing to the SAS Social Studies PLC and for all you do every day for the students in Pennsylvania!

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