

Social Studies PLC eBlast

October 2022

Volume II, Number 10

Hello Everyone!

Act 35 Update

The 2021-22 Act 35 reporting opened in the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP) on September 14, 2022, with a deadline of December 1, 2022. Act 35 requirements began in the 2020-21 school year and requires each district, charter school, and comprehensive CTC to administer a locally developed assessment of United States history, government and civics. The assessment must be administered at least once to students in grades 7-12 and must include 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.

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

Gather this information in preparation for the upcoming collection. You can find more information on Act 35, including guidelines for accessing and submitting your data at [this page](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page and open the “Act 35 Reporting Guidelines” document. You may also find the “Frequently Asked Questions” document useful as well.

Note that if your charter school does not encompass grades 7-12, you are exempt from this submission. However, if your school includes at least one grade level 7-12, this legislation applies to your LEA. Submission is also required for IUs that provide civics instruction on behalf of their LEAs, as well as comprehensive CTC schools.

If you are experiencing issues where you are unable to submit after entering your data, please check that you have the proper “submit” role in the ADMIN area of FRCPP. If the Act 35 Civic Knowledge survey isn't appearing when you log in, you are a registered user and you must be added by your localadmin user. The [FRCPP information page](#) may assist as you encounter submission issues.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Social Studies Symposium

The Social Studies Symposium is a biennial gathering of social studies educators in western Pennsylvania.

Join them on October 10, 2022, at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the third biennial Social Studies Symposium. This free conference features 30 minute Powertalks from fellow educators, curriculum providers, and community organizations who are looking to partner with you to engage your students in learning! Join this free gathering from 8:00am - 1:00pm at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Homestead, PA. [Learn more here.](#)

Kids' Money for Teachers

Welcome to Kids' Money for teachers! Here, you'll find important financial topics to cover by grade level, downloadable lesson plans, fun activities and games, and much more. [Check it out here.](#)

POWER Library – Another Outstanding Resource

[POWER Library](#) is the online portal to the resources that Pennsylvania libraries offer to all citizens of the Commonwealth, providing 24/7 access to newspapers, magazines, journals, historical documents and photos, online databases, and eBooks. 350 new e-books have been added in subjects such as diversity, equity, inclusion, STEM, education, and more!

The POWER Library [OER Commons](#) hub is designed to serve educators across the Commonwealth with high-quality, customizable lesson plans and other resources that directly correlate Pennsylvania's elementary and secondary content standards to the resources provided in POWER Library.

PBS Learning Media

PBS Pennsylvania is the collective name for the [seven public television organizations](#) in the state. These stations provides access to [programs](#), [educational resources](#), links to relevant [partners](#) and information, and a monthly [newsletter](#). Through your [preferred station](#), [PBS Online](#) offers local educational programming. Explore Your Learning Neighborhood and PBS Learning Media to learn more about the wealth of teaching and learning resources.

Bring the World to Your Classroom, through [PBS Learning Media](#). WITF and PBS have curated FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more for teachers like you.

Heinz History Center

Devoted to the history and heritage of Western Pennsylvania, the History Center (i.e., The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania) is Pennsylvania's largest history museum and a proud affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Senator John Heinz History Center family of museums and programs includes the Heinz History Center, Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, Fort Pitt Museum, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, Detre Library & Archives, and the new Museum Conservation Center. The 370,000 square-foot museum presents compelling stories from American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection in an interactive environment perfect for visitors of all ages. Check out what they have to offer [here](#).

National History Day (NHD) Update

The 2022-23 National History Day Contest year is upon us! The theme for the year is *FRONTIERS IN HISTORY: PEOPLE, PLACES, IDEAS*.

Students and teachers alike will find useful resources on the NHD theme page, including the theme booklet, an introductory theme video, and a ready-to-use graphic organizer. Use the link [here](#) to visit the official theme web page.

For resources on Pennsylvania topics, check out the [Pennsylvania resources page](#).

New from The OER History Project

Can you give students a sense of wonderment while teaching critical thinking? [This blog](#) reminds us that the more you learn about something, the more fascinating it often becomes! Intimidated by teaching climate change without a background in the natural sciences? [This blog post](#) explores the subject in a social-sciences context. Which historical thinking skills do you most want to see your students develop? And how can your peers in the OER Project Community help? [Share your goals!](#)

National Constitution Center

The *National Constitution Center* serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate. Check out all of their resources [here](#).

Civics Alliance

American civics education should teach students the founding principles of the United States, the structure of its self-governing republic, the functions of government at all levels, and how our key institutions work. Learn about the evolution of civics education and our fight to save it [here](#).

Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) offers Free Social Studies Materials

SHEG provides free materials and upcoming webinars to enhance the classroom experience. Explore [161](#) Reading Like a Historian lessons, [138](#) Beyond the Bubble history assessments, and [83](#) Civic Online Reasoning activities, [all available here](#).

Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month (September - October 15) by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. [Click here for some selected resources for teachers](#).

The National Council for the Social Studies: Resources for Your Classrooms

- The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) has lesson plans and resources for teaching about Hispanic Heritage Month
- The [Library of Congress](#) has created a primary source set containing images, audio, maps, and lesson plan ideas for bolstering lessons on Hispanic Heritage

- Bolster a Hispanic Heritage classroom discussion or lesson plan with the [United States Census Bureau](#)'s stories, population data, and trade figures
- *Identidad y Fronteras: Borders and Identity* is a bilingual educational resource based on research and documentation from the 1993 [Smithsonian Folklife Festival program](#) and explores culture along the United States-Mexico border

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

Don McCrone

dmccrone@pa.gov