

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE



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LARGEST STATE ASSEMBLY OF SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS GOES VIRTUAL

2020 OCSS Annual Conference to Be Held Online

COLUMBUS, OHIO (May 5th, 2020) — The Ohio Council for the Social Studies has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advocating for and supporting social studies in classrooms and communities since its founding in 1956. The extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves reminds us of the importance of history, civics, economics, geography, and the other social sciences when discussing what the obligation of one stranger is to another. As social studies teachers, we have been charged with preparing informed and active citizens who advance the health and vibrancy of our state, country, and world. After all, there is no subject better positioned to prepare youth for membership into the “Office of Citizen.” It is essential all students are afforded a high-quality social studies education that arms them with the habits of mind and heart to defend this most sacred office.

In being stewards of this civic mission, OCSS has and will continue to act to showcase its commitment to public health while continuing to advance social studies teaching and learning. Yesterday, the OCSS Executive Board unanimously voted to convert its 2020 Annual Conference to an online event. By acting now, we have ample time to design and deliver an innovative, robust, and meaningful 2020 virtual conference. Justifications to support converting this year’s conference to a virtual conference included:

- An on-going public health situation, expected to re-emerge in the fall, that makes planning for and holding a face-to-face conference of +300 people risky and precarious

- Being responsive to the needs of Ohio teachers seeking online tools and resources to advance student learning in online and hybrid environments
- An increasingly challenging financial situation that most likely will reduce professional development funding and travel by districts and educators.

By voting to move our 64th Annual Conference online, OCSS is amongst the first major K-12 educator organizations to do so for the 2020-21 school year. OCSS President Dr. Brad Maguth remarked, "We are committed to leading by example on this issue. This year's conference, themed, *Preparing Energized and Engaged Democratic Citizens through Social Studies*, will offer unparalleled sessions and panel discussions by leading researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, provide networking opportunities with state and national leaders, and offer meaningful interactions and demonstrations with exhibitors and vendors". A 2020 Virtual Conference Committee is facilitating the planning process. Registration information, session offerings, dates, and exhibitors and sponsors will be available in late June at www.ocss.org

About the Ohio Council for the Social Studies

OCSS serves as the premier voice for social studies professionals in Ohio. We advocate for the vital role of social studies and assist educators through professional development for the delivery of effective and innovative instruction. Our conferences and publications provide a network of services to members throughout the state.

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