

CALIFORNIA

History-Social Science PROJECT

four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that

The **California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP)** is a statewide professional development network of historians, teachers and affiliated scholars dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in history and social science education. The CHSSP focuses on best practices for teaching English learners and students from underserved communities. PK–12 teachers and university scholars work together to improve classroom instruction, student learning and literacy.

Members of the CHSSP network served as primary writers of California’s History-Social Science Framework, adopted by the California State Board of Education in 2016. The American Historical Association selected the California History-Social Science Project and the California Department of Education as the winners of the 2018 Beveridge Family Teaching Prize for their work on the History-Social Science Framework.

OUR WORK

The CHSSP approach to instruction integrates content, the mastery of a discipline and a focus on supporting English language proficiency. These elements are presented in an inquiry model of historical investigation. More specifically, we:

- Respect the role of history education in preparing students for thoughtful participation in a democratic society
- Believe in continuous and year-round teacher learning, research and professional development
- Combine the skills and experience of university scholars with those of classroom teachers, to best serve California’s diverse student population
- Value creativity, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit

OFFERINGS

Teaching the History-Social Science Framework

CHSSP leaders work with their county office and district partners to support the implementation of the 2016 Framework. School- and district-based programs, as well as open programs throughout the year, and a statewide conference series provide avenues for CHSSP scholars, teachers and teacher leaders to share resources.

Specialized Topics in History-Social Science

To meet the needs of local schools, CHSSP sites develop individual programs focused on particular subject areas, such as world history or ethnic studies; disciplinary skills, such as historical thinking; and student literacy development, such as how to prepare students to write an argument in history.

Curriculum and Instructional Resources Development

Along with professional learning, CHSSP scholars and teachers regularly develop new classroom-ready lesson plans, primary source sets, articles and blog posts on history education that are content-rooted and based on recent scholarship. Some examples:

- *Civic Engagement and Ethnic Studies*: A collection of instructional support materials designed to explain how our government works and to engage students in an exploration of their local communities to help prepare them for their own civic responsibilities
- *Disciplinary Literacy: Literacy resources for multilingual students, academic language support, historical thinking strategies and writing resources*
- *Technical Support for Districts and Schools*: IConsultation and facilitation in the development of curriculum, backwards mapping, course updates and common assessments
- *Implementing the FAIR Act*: Classroom-ready lesson plans and suggestions to support implementation of the FAIR Act in schools
- *Textbook Adoption Toolkit*: Step-by-step documentation to clarify and simplify the process of adopting district-based teaching materials
- *Teaching California*: A free online curriculum that offers primary source material aligned with the HSS Framework

REGIONAL SITES

California History-Social Science Project:
Statewide Office, UC Davis

The History and Civics Project at UC Santa Cruz

The UC Berkeley History-Social Science Project

The UCI History Project

The UCLA History-Geography Project

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2,158

Number of educators served
(2024–25)

771

Number of schools served (2024–25)

Monthly Highlights Each month the CHSSP spotlights a theme of historical significance and includes lesson plans, scholarly connections, teacher interviews, and recommended picture books to help teachers at all levels address themes in their classrooms.

<https://chssp.ucdavis.edu/monthly-highlights>



CHSSP is a member of the California Subject Matter Project (CSMP), a network of nine discipline-specific projects administered by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) that provide high-quality professional learning for PK–12 teachers throughout California. Each project is represented statewide by regional sites on the campuses of UC, California State University and independent colleges and universities. For more information about CSMP, please visit csmp.online.