

Ohio Council for the Social Studies Position Statement

Cancelation of State End of Course Exams & Assessments During Historic Pandemic

Approved by Executive Board on March 18th, 2020

Educators, families, and youth are confronting a historic global health emergency, the CORV-19 virus, that has shuttered schools, businesses, and has disrupted the school year. The state's teachers, while fighting to meet the needs of their families, have admirably raced over the past few weeks to confront this pandemic by reinventing their instructional practice, putting instructional materials online, and in helping learners navigate the constantly changing educational landscape associated with this outbreak. Thus, it is the opinion of the Ohio Council for the Social Studies, the state's largest assembly of K-16 history and social studies teachers, that to subject educators, youth, and families to end of year exams and other state assessments would be irresponsible and counter to well-established research on human growth and development.

Protecting the physical and mental well-being of students, educators, and their families must be the top priority of the State of Ohio. State lawmakers must give school districts flexibility to respond to the immediate challenges they face to best protect their communities from COVID-19 while providing all students with a thorough and efficient education. Thus, we call on concerned citizens and other state organizations to join us in our organization's unanimous position that Ohio lawmakers move immediately to waive *all* end-of-course exams required for the graduation of the class of 2020, remove all other state assessments scheduled for the 2019-20 school year, and immediately notify the U.S. Department of Education of its petition to seek a federal testing mandate waiver.