



2020 STATE OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES SURVEY RESULTS IN OHIO



Pictured Left: Jim O'Connor (Vice President, OCSS) Testifying on Value of Social Studies

August 15th, 2020 - Columbus, Ohio. In its latest Ohio Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) Board Meeting, higher education faculty members reported preliminary 2020 "State of the Social Studies in Ohio Survey" findings. This report, to be present nationally in November, suggests the troubling continuation across the state of the marginalization of the subject most at the center of preparing youth for civic life. Research findings are published

annually on [OCSS's website](#), and key findings from this year are included below. 139 active Ohio K-12 educators completed this year's survey.

- Almost half (45%) of K-5 teachers reported having **no** social studies specific professional development in the last academic year
- 70% of teachers reporting a grade of "C" or lower when asked to assess the strength and vitality of the teaching and learning of social studies across Ohio's K-12 classrooms
- 68% of educators report social studies being the least invested in and valued "core content area" by administrators in their school
- Almost 80% reported they frequently employ "Inquiry-based Instruction" when teaching

Unlike other core subject areas, educators from across the state are most likely to pull from their pocketbooks to invest in social studies professional development and curricular resources. Dr. Brad Maguth, the organization's elected President, commented, "This is unacceptable, as today's climate and conditions demand K-12 educators have updated social studies content knowledge and access to quality, inclusive, and engaging instructional resources". Educators are being asked to contact their Ohio lawmakers and demand support for OCSS's HB 239 testimony calling for critical state investment in social studies professional development.