

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Middle States Council for the Social Studies (MSCSS) is a professional organization, composed of educators primarily from Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. MSCSS represents all levels of social studies teaching from elementary school through college. Established in 1903, the Council has continually promoted excellence in Social Studies in this region. The MSCSS continues to be a contributing affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), which it helped to establish.

The Middle States Council endorses the definition of Social Studies adopted by NCSS in 1992: Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and the natural sciences. The primary purpose of the social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.

Within this context, the Council works to enhance and promote effective teaching and learning of social studies on all levels through research, conference, publications, the exchange of ideas, exposure to new technologies, and to productive new methodologies. The Council continues to be a clearinghouse of ideas, materials, and trends. The Council also serves as a conduit of networking and communication with NCSS, state and local social studies councils within the region, its own members, and with other organizations and educators. The Council promotes the movement for meaningful social studies standards and frameworks at the local, state, and national level. The Council uses grants and awards to recognize and encourage professionalism and leadership among those engaged in social studies education. Finally, the Middle States Council for the Social Studies promotes, history, geography, and several social science disciplines as important guides for the preparation of our youth to be knowledgeable, rational, responsible, and caring citizens of our Nation as well as their respective communities and states.

## PRIORITY GOALS\*

- GOAL 1 - Promote social studies professionalism through various Council activities.
- GOAL 2 - To sponsor an annual conference that attracts social studies teachers and effectively promotes the social studies profession.
- GOAL 3 - To develop and implement an effective public relations program that initiates and maintains positive communications and collaboration with NCSS and state and local councils in the Middle States region.
- GOAL 4 - To actively expand and involve Council membership in all Middle States Council activities and leadership positions.

\* Adopted by the MSCSS Board of Directors on January 4, 1997