

SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (SSEC) HISTORY TIMELINE

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Introduction

The timeline of the Social Science Education Consortium below highlights the history of the organization since its beginning in 1963. The reader will note that most of the entries relate to publications of the organization. (Not all SSEC publications are listed here.) This is because much of the organization's history is embodied in its publications and most of the SSEC publications were the result of funded projects.

While the SSEC has a mission of improving the teaching of the social sciences in pre-college education, its not-for-profit status demanded that it search for funding related to, but sometimes beyond this mission. The entries here can be organized into nine themes. The themes are:

1. Content and teaching of the social sciences and history
2. Educational planning and change
3. Ethnic studies
4. Law-related/democracy/civic education
5. Research in social studies/social science education
6. Global/international studies
7. Environmental education
8. Evaluation in social studies/social science education
9. Special social science applications

Timeline

1963 – Social Science Education Consortium is founded at Purdue University. Founding members included Robert Horton, Purdue University; Ronald Lippitt, University of Michigan; Irving Morrisett, Purdue University; Michael Scriven, Indiana University; Lawrence Senesh, Purdue University; and Peter Senn, Northwestern University. Irving Morrisett becomes Executive Director of SSEC.

1966 – SSEC hosts a national conference on new social science curricula, resulting in the publication of *Concepts and Structure in the New Social Science Curricula*, which becomes a significant publication in the field. **(1)**

1967 – SSEC moves offices to Boulder, Colorado, renting space from the University of Colorado

1967 – SSEC publishes *Steps in Curriculum Analysis Outline*, a preliminary form of the Curriculum Materials Analysis System, funded by the U.S. Office of Education. **(2)**

1967 – SSEC publishes *Inservice Teacher Education to Support Utilization of New Social Science Curricula* based on a conference of New Social Studies project directors. (1) (2)

1968-1969 – First year-long Experienced Teacher Fellowship Program is conducted by SSEC through the University of Colorado. (1) (2)

1969 – Initial institutional funding received from the National Science Foundation. Projects included development of the Curriculum Materials Analysis System (CMAS), dissemination of information about new social studies/social science curricula, development of the Data Book, and the Teacher Associate Program. (1) (2)

1969-1970 – Second year-long Experienced Teacher Fellowship Program is conducted through the University of Colorado. (1) (2)

Summer 1970 – National Science Foundation supports a week-long institute in Boulder for members of the Council of State Social Studies Specialists (CS4) on new developments in social studies/social science education. (1)

1970 – SSEC is awarded the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) initial three-year contract by the U.S. Office of Education. Clearinghouse is named ERIC/ChESS (ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education). Nicholas Helburn becomes first ERIC/ChESS director.

1970 – Educational Resources Center (ERC) is formed to purchase sorority house at 855 Broadway in Boulder to house the offices of the SSEC and other not-for-profit education organizations.

1971 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish *The Environmental Problem: Selections from Hearings on the Environmental Education Act of 1970*, funded by the U.S. Office of Education. (7)

1971 – SSEC publishes the *Curriculum Materials Analysis System* (long, intermediate, and short forms), with funding from the U.S. Office of Education and the National Science Foundation. (2)

1971-1974 – Month-long National Science Foundation-funded summer institutes are conducted on the Anthropology Curriculum Study Project (ACSP), ECON 12 (published as *Economics in Society*), High School Geography Project (HSGP), and Sociological Resources for the Social Studies (SRSS). (1) (2)

1971 – SSEC publishes Volume I of the *Social Studies Curriculum Materials Data Book*. (1)

1971 – SSEC, the American Political Science Association, and ERIC/ChESS publish the volume, *Materials for Civics, Government, and Problems of Democracy: Political Science in the New Social Studies*. No federal funds were spent on this project. (4)

1971 – 1982 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS jointly publish tips for teaching the social science and history series, continuing publications of the ERIC clearinghouse. (1)

1971 – 1973 – SSEC published *Sunshine Unfolding*, written by four Boulder high school students, part of the SADMESS (Student Assisted Development of Materials for Environmental and Social Studies), funded by the U.S. Office of Education. **(7)**

1972 – In May 1972, Boulder high school students, with many participating volunteers, organized and conducted an environmental fair as part of the SADMESS project after blocking off two blocks of Pearl Street in Boulder. The fair was the initial idea for what later became the famous Boulder Pearl Street Mall. **(7)**

1973 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish the volume, *Bringing About Change in Social Studies Education*, funded by the National Institute of Education, U.S. Office of Education. **(2)**

1973 – In collaboration with the Center for Teaching International Relations, University of Denver, and the American Political Science Association, SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish *Global Dimensions in the New Social Studies*. Funding was provided by the National Institute of Education, U.S. Office of Education. **(6)**

1975 – SSEC conducts a second one-week institute for members of the Council for State Social Studies Specialists (CS4), funded by the National Science Foundation. The institute focuses in on new social science content and planning for change. **(1) (2)**

1975 – SSEC publishes the *Wingspread Workbook for Educational Change Agents*, the results of a national conference supported by the National Science Foundation and the Johnson Foundation. Revised in 1977. **(2)**

1976 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish the *Values Education Sourcebook: Conceptual Approaches, Materials Analysis, and an Annotated Bibliography*, funded by the National Institute of Education. **(9)**

1974 – SSEC receives the first of many small grants for law-related education from the Education Committee of the Colorado Bar Association. The program is called the Colorado Legal Education Program (CLEP). SSEC conducted workshops and conferences in law-related throughout Colorado for several years. **(4)**

1976 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish the *Ethnic Studies Teacher Resource Kit*. Funding was provided by the National Institute of Education, U.S. Office of Education. **(3)**

1977 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish the *Handbook of Legal Education Resources* with funding from the National Institute of Education. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. **(4)**

1977 – SSEC publishes *Planning a Social Studies Program: Activities, Guidelines, and Resources*. Revised in 1983, 1991, and 1998. This publication is one of the SSEC's best sellers. **(2)**

1977 – SSEC publishes *Perspectives on Economic Education* in collaboration with the Joint Council on Economic Education and the National Council for the Social Studies. The volume highlighted the proceedings of a NSF-funded conference on needed research and development in economic education. **(1) (5)**

1977 – SSEC, ERIC/ChESS, and the National Council for the Social Studies publish *Review of Research in Social Studies Education: 1970-1975*. **(5)**

1978 – SSEC publishes the results of an NSF-funded three-year project entitled *Social Studies Evaluation Sourcebook*. **(8)**

1979 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish the volume *Law in the Classroom: Activities and Resources*, funded by the CLEP project, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Colorado Department of Education, and the National Institute of Education. This publication becomes one of the SSEC's best sellers. **(4)**

1980 – In collaboration with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the Mershon Center at Ohio State University, SSEC collaborated on the development of the *Handbook of Basic Citizenship Competencies* and the accompanying volume *A Guide to Basic Citizenship Competencies*. Both publications become very good sellers. **(4)**

1981 – SSEC and ERIC/ChESS publish *Ethnic Studies Sampler: The Best of the Title IX Project Materials*. Funding was provided by the National Institute of Education, U.S. Office of Education. **(3)**

1979 – 1983 – With NSF funding, the SSEC conducts eight one-week dissemination institutes nationwide on the teaching of social science in pre-college education. **(1)**

1979 – 1981 – SSEC conducts Project MAVIS (Materials Adaptations for Visually Impaired Students in the Social Studies). MAVIS published 6 sourcebooks. The project was funded by the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, U.S. Office of Education. **(9)**

1982 – Institutional funding from the National Science Foundation ends.

1979 – 1982 – SSEC conducts Project SPAN (Social Studies Priorities, Practices, and Needs), which resulted in five good selling publications. SPAN was funded by the National Science Foundation. **(1) (5)**

1984 – SSEC, ERIC/ChESS, and the National Council for the Social Studies publish *Review of Research in Social Studies Education: 1976-1983*. Funding was provided by the National Institute of Education, U.S. Office of Education. **(5)**

1985 – The ERIC/ChESS contract is won by the Social Studies Development Center, Indiana University. The SSEC did not bid on the contract.

1987 – In collaboration with the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS), the SSEC publishes *Science/Technology/Society: A Framework for Curriculum Reform in Secondary School Science and Social Studies*. Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation. **(9)**

1987 – In collaboration with the Center for Teaching International Relations, University of Denver, SSEC publishes *Global Issues: Activities and Resources for the High School Teacher*. **(6)**

1987 – SSEC publishes *Japan in the Classroom: Elementary and Secondary Activities* as part of its ten-year educational exchange program to teach classroom teachers about Japan. **(6)**

1988 – James R. Giese becomes Executive Director of the SSEC.

1988 – 2001 – SSEC conducts civics/democracy/law-related education in Colorado and nationwide for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and We The People, supported by the Center for Civic Education. **(4)**

1989 – SSEC begins publication of the Public Issues Series, adaptations from the Harvard Social Studies Project. The series becomes an excellent seller. **(1) (9)**

1993, 1995, and 1997 – SSEC publishes resource volumes on children's literature and citizenship, geography, and history. **(1) (9)**

1993 – 1998 – SSEC was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct summer institutes in history. One publication from these institutes was *A New Look at the American West: Lessons for Secondary History and Literature Classes*. **(1) (2)**

1994 – In collaboration with the Center for Teaching International Relations, University of Denver, the SSEC publishes *Global Issues in the Middle School, Grades 5-8* (Third Edition). **(6)**

1994 – SSEC publishes *The Future of the Social Studies*. **(9)**

1996 – In collaboration with Wadsworth Publishing Company, SSEC publishes *Teaching the Social Sciences and History in Secondary Schools: A Methods Book*. Funding for the development of the volume was provided by the National Science Foundation. **(1)**

1996 – Based on an extensive NSF-supported series of summer institutes, the SSEC publishes *Service Learning in the Middle School Curriculum: A Resource Book*. **(2) (9)**

2000 – In collaboration with Education for Global Involvement (EGI), SSEC publishes *Latin America and Japan: Crossing Borders and Making Connections: Classroom Activities and Lessons for Middle and Upper Grades*. **(1)**

2000 – James E. Davis becomes Executive Director of the SSEC.

2000 – SSEC publishes two conference series volumes: *Social Science on the Frontier: New Horizons in History and Geography* and *Sea Changes in Social Science Education: Woods Hole 2000*. The latter volume development was supported by the National Science Foundation. **(1)**

2003 – SSEC formally affiliates with the National Council for the Social Studies. The SSEC office is moved to Davis's home in Lafayette, Colorado.

2001 – 2003 – SSEC collaborates with The American Forum, the Constitutional Rights Foundation (Los Angeles and Chicago), Council of Chief State School Officers, and Street Law, Inc. to conduct the Democracy Education Exchange Project, serving 12 former Soviet countries. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. **(4)**

2003 – 2006 – SSEC develops a series of twelve economics investigations that have been published by Junior Achievement Worldwide. The investigations development was funded by the National Science Foundation. **(1)**

2006 – present – SSEC continues to work with Colonial Williamsburg on its secondary level digital U.S. history project, entitled *The Idea of America*. The SSEC is currently evaluating the Elk Grove (CA) Unified School District Teaching American History project. The Elk Grove project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. **(1) (8)**