



Support History Education

Objective:

Through legislation, policy, and especially funding, ensure that every K-12 student in America receives a high-quality history education.

Background:

The National Coalition for History advocates for a number of policies and programs that impact history education, including:

- American History and Civics Academies, which offer workshops for elementary and secondary teachers and for high school students to strengthen their understanding of those fields.
- National Activities grants, which promote innovative instruction and professional development in K-12 American history, civics and government, with an emphasis on programs that benefit low-income and underserved student populations.
- The inclusion of history in the Secretary of Education's supplemental priorities, which influence the awarding of the department's discretionary grants.

President Trump's budget request for FY2018 proposed the elimination of both the American History and Civics Academies and the National Activities grants. While NCH and other groups successfully advocated to maintain funding for FY18, these programs are under threat once again in FY19.

Why it matters:

History education is essential in providing students with the skills and knowledge to be informed citizens. It helps them not only to understand our national past, but also to develop the ability to collect, organize, analyze, contextualize, and synthesize data into a cogent position that is supportable by evidence.

Unfortunately, the 2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) showed that only eighteen percent of American eighth graders performed at or above the *Proficient* level on the U.S. History assessment, while twenty-nine percent ranked at the *Below Basic* level. To foster the engaged, knowledgeable citizenry that our country needs, better history education is key.

These programs are funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill.