

# CCSS Outstanding Educator Award and Senesh Outstanding Student Teacher Award

The Colorado Council for the Social Studies is pleased to present several awards to honor outstanding social studies educators in Colorado. This year's awards will again recognize educators in two categories:

## **CCSS Outstanding Educator Award and the Senesh Outstanding Student Teacher Award**

Nominees should represent the very best in social studies education -- teachers we'd be pleased to have for our own children. If you or someone you know meets the following criteria, please nominate him or her!

### **General Criteria for These Awards**

- Anyone may nominate. Self nominations will be accepted.
- CCSS membership is required.
- Identify the level at which social studies is taught regularly and systematically in K-5, 6-8, or 9-12.
- Nominees cannot be nominated for the award in more than one category (i.e., junior high/middle school teachers are ineligible for the high school award).
- Demonstrate exceptional abilities in at least five of the seven categories listed below:
  1. Develop or use instructional materials creatively and effectively.
  2. Incorporate innovative and verified effective instructional strategies and techniques.
  3. Utilize new scholarship from history, the social sciences, or other appropriate fields.
  4. Utilize the ten interrelated themes identified in NCSS curriculum standards: culture; time, continuity, and change; people, places, and environment; individual development and identity; individuals, groups, and institutions; power, authority, and governance; production, distribution, and consumption; science, technology, and society; global connections; and civic ideals and practices.
  5. Demonstrated ability to foster a spirit of inquiry and the development of skills related to acquiring, organizing, processing, and using information and making decisions related to both domestic and international matters.
  6. Demonstrated ability to foster the development of democratic beliefs and values, and the skills needed for citizen participation appropriate to students' grade level in classroom, school, and community settings.
  7. Evidence of professional involvement in activities such as workshops, curriculum development, committees, and other association activities, etc.

### **Criteria for the Senesh Outstanding Student Teacher Award**

#### **Middle (6-8) or High (9-12) Student Teacher**

major area of study in at least one social science discipline  
intends to teach in the field of social studies  
completed student teaching in social studies within the last 18 months

#### **Elementary (K-5) Student Teacher**

demonstrates a special interest in social studies  
considers social studies an important area of study for elementary students  
student taught social studies in an elementary or middle school within the last 18 months

### **Criteria for the CCSS Outstanding Educator Award**

#### **Elementary, Middle, and High School Levels**

Social studies was major teaching field during the current school year

### **Nomination Requirements**

1. **Nomination cover page** (found at the end of this document)
2. **Letter of nomination** (needed only if someone is nominating you for the award).
3. **Letter(s) of support** Letter(s) supporting your application from colleagues, supervisor(s), parents, and/or students.
4. **Vita or professional resume** prepared by the nominee (listing degrees conferred by U.S. accredited institutions only).
5. **Current teaching assignment.** Description of nominee's current teaching assignment (to verify eligibility).
6. **Applicant narrative** describing how he/she meets at least five criteria areas listed above (not to exceed four (4) one-sided double-spaced 8-1/2 x 11 pages).
7. **Portfolio** may include up to ten one-sided pages of documentation that supports the Applicant Narrative. Evidence might include clear reproductions of newspaper articles; teaching evaluations; a lesson or unit plan that was conceived, planned, implemented and measured through learner outcomes that highlight how the applicant has met the award's teaching criteria and possesses outstanding classroom practices.
8. **The due date is March 1.**