The Social and Behavioral Sciences in K-12 Education

NASEM/DBASSE/RT

(@ArthurLupia)
Acronyms

• NASEM
  – National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

• DBASSE
  – Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

• RT
  – NASEM Roundtable on the Communication and Use of Social and Behavioral Science
Logistics

• We are taping today’s proceedings.

• We are preparing a brief.
  – Please suggest interested audiences to Holly, Melissa, or Skip
Acknowledgements

• Spencer Foundation

• American Educational Research Association

• American Psychological Association

• Univ. Michigan/Institute for Social Research

• National Academies Presidents Committee

• SAGE Publications

• Westat
Acknowledgements

• DBASSE: Bob Hauser and Mary Ellen O’Connell

• RT: Felice Levine and Howard Kurtzman

• NASEM: Melissa Welch-Ross and Holly Rhodes

• The RT
Goals

• Why teach SBS in K-12?

• What does the public believe about SBS?

• What are the desired outcomes of SBS-focused K-12 activities?

• Which current standards and guidelines are influential?
BACKGROUND
A free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere
You only have to know one thing:

You can learn anything

For free. For everyone. Forever.

Start learning now
Teachers, start here
Parents, start here
Anything?
• “The social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences are largely absent from the K-12 curriculum...

• Each year, some 53 million students attend elementary and secondary schools in the United States... they receive almost no exposure to the [SBS] sciences...

• [SBS courses] are few in number in comparison to natural science offerings.”
OBSSR. Behavioral and Social Sciences in STEM

• Behavioral and social sciences are used not only to improve the teaching of science and math, but must also be recognized as core STEM sciences.”
Lessons from Previous Efforts

• 1993. AAAS. Project 2061 – expectations for “learning about human society” in K-12


• 2010. APA. *Psychology as a Core STEM Discipline.*

• 2011. NIH. Behavioral and Social Sciences in STEM Education. NIH.

• 2011. NRC. Planning Meeting on Teaching SBE in K-12.

• 2013. Next Gen Science Standards

• 2013. The C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards

• 2014. NSF. *Education and Training in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*
2011 NRC Planning Meeting
Recommendations

• Define/articulate goals and rationales

• Identify approaches to curricular inclusion

• Develop and strengthen key relationships

• Build capacity
Goals

• Why teach SBS in K-12?

• What does the public believe about SBS?

• What are the desired outcomes of SBS-focused K-12 activities?

• Which current standards and guidelines are influential?
HOW?
STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES
\[
\begin{align*}
\int_0^\infty & \left( \alpha \gamma y \cos \left( y x + b \gamma y \right) \right) \sin y x \, dy \\
&= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\pi} \left( f(t) \cos t y \right) \, dt \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \left( f(t) \sin t y \right) \, dt
\end{align*}
\]
Pressures Affecting K-12

• Uncertain state support

• Poverty

• Many groups influence curricula & standards
  – NCLB
  – ETS & AP
Prospective Adopters

• What are their objectives?

• What practical constraints exist for those who would consider change?
NEXT STEPS
Desired Outcomes

• Educational materials and strategies that can help students make better decisions in civic, personal, community, work, and family contexts.

• Appreciation of how SBS methods produce better understanding of human and social phenomena.

• Greater interest in pursuing SBS careers.
Effective Action

• What can be done to more effectively serve students, teachers and school boards over the next
  – 2 years
  – 5 years
  – 10 years

• Can we develop new and more effective ways to serve these critical constituencies?
Outline

• 10:00 Public Perceptions of SBS
  – Sheri Roder, Horizon Media, presenter

• 10:30 Disciplinary Perspectives Panel
  – Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology
  – Howard Kurtzman, APA/RT, moderator

• 11:30 Working Lunch: Proposals for Progress

• 12:15 Education Perspectives Panel
  – Matt Krehbiel, Achieve.org
  – Lawrence Paska, National Council for the Social Studies

• 1:00 Open Discussion of Next Steps
Thank you for working with us to improve education.

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