

Social Studies: In summary, bring on laughter

The Social Studies Frameworks being implemented in New York schools have substituted behavioral changes that promote social transformation to replace the knowledge and analytical thinking upon which solid education depends.

When such silliness becomes official, and credentials are branched to defend it, ordinary people can only resort to laughter.

Bring on Blazing Saddles! Bring on The Producers! Anything but bring on Social Studies. The approved Social Studies Frameworks are so convoluted, obscure, intricate and shallow it is hard to know where first to laugh:

1. Good citizenship is what authorities say it is.

2. College and career ready is used as a laudable, magical distraction.

3. Culture wars pushed into students is so selective students might disown their own grand-

parents for daring to believe the American dream.

4. Understandings become key when they reach Billboard's Top Hits chart.

5. Authorities get to deem when ideas become principles, and they are to be practiced, not understood.

6. Unifying themes are those that produce followers authorities can motivate.

7. Second graders are best fed incomplete feel good concepts while evidence is anything people say.

8. What happened in history is not worth studying and Economics is what government does.

9. Centralized control is good for the country even when it isn't good for citizens.

10. Schooling that preserves the government is good for the country.

This is an education parents did not long for and one they had no opportunity to reject.

It passed because New York State's Education Department pushed Regents to approve a modified Social Studies Frameworks even after the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) that pushed the original was told to pack up and go home by the Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, the founders of Common Core. As a skill of advocates, State Ed created a Content Advisory Panel riddled with special interests and friends of the NCSS.

For ordinary people like us, an expert is someone who explains things so clearly even we can understand. For an academic, an expert is someone so credentialed that when they obscure, no one dare challenge the silliness.

For the sake of our children, laughter at what your children are obliged to learn is welcome at any local Board of Education meeting.