

**MCCPTA Resolution on
Science and Social Studies in Elementary Schools
Approved by the MCCPTA Delegates on February 28, 2006**

Whereas, social studies teaches the content knowledge, analytical skills and civic values necessary for fulfilling the duties of citizenship in a participatory democracy and it serves as a forum for all students to explore issues of culture, identity, and diversity as a community,

Whereas, science teaches the content knowledge and methods of inquiry necessary for examining and understanding the world around us and participating in our increasingly technology-based society and its economy,

Whereas, both science and social studies motivate and engage students through stimulating interest in the world around them, and provide a context for acquiring a breadth of academic skill, including creative problem-solving, comprehension of complex system, and multi-dimensional thinking,

Whereas, the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and regulations require that students be taught the full range of knowledge in all areas where a state has standards, not just in mathematics, reading, and language arts,

Whereas, the state of Maryland has developed standards for all students in science and social studies, will start testing elementary and middle school students in science in 2007 and will require students graduating in 2009 and later to pass high school assessments in science, history, and civics,

Whereas, subject area knowledge in science and social studies is necessary for the application of skills in reading and mathematics and contributes to improving achievement levels in those subjects,

Whereas, parents and teachers in Montgomery County have noted and are concerned about an extreme cutback in the last few years of the time spent on social studies and science in MCPS elementary schools

Therefore be it

Resolved, the Board of Education and MCPS should require elementary schools to have schedules that provide time devoted to social studies and science instruction that is adequate to teach all state and county standards effectively and MCPS should include guidelines for the minimum time necessary to teach these subjects in their instructional guides.

Resolved, the Board of Education and MCPS should monitor and publicly report on time allocated to social studies and science in elementary schools.

Resolved, the Board of Education and MCPS should review and revise its entire elementary curricula to pursue disciplined inquiry by improving integration across all subjects and by incorporating more engaging and extended opportunities for students in science and social studies

Resolved, the Board of Education and MCPS should provide assistance that is adequate to enable teachers to implement such curriculum revisions effectively.

Resolved, the Board of Education and MCPS should ensure that school improvement plans include attention to what the school needs to do to enable all students to meet the county and state standards for science and social studies.

Resolved, the Board of Education and MCPS should monitor and report progress toward meeting county and state standards for science and social studies in elementary schools.