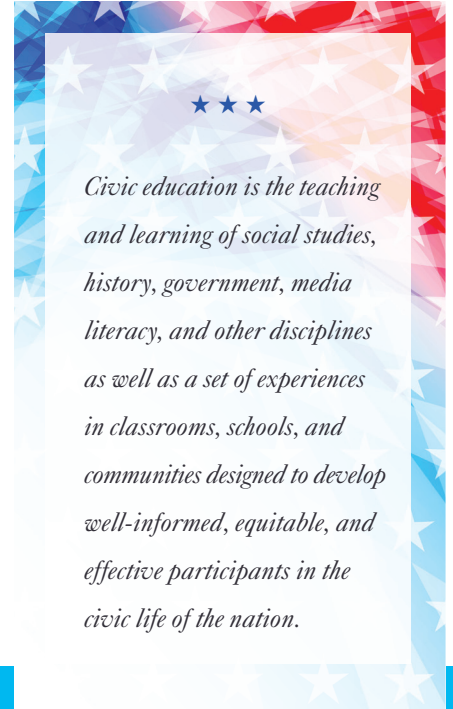


CivXNow Policy Menu Brief





For Advocates, Educators, and Policymakers

The CivXNow Coalition is leading a bipartisan, nationwide movement to improve policies and promote research-based, results-driven practices in civic education. In order to flourish in its third century and beyond, our nation must revisit and recommit to the principle that high quality universal civics education is fundamental to our democracy.



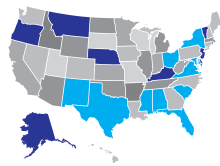
Education works!

Students who experience high quality civic education are:

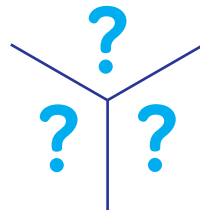
-  More likely to vote and discuss politics at home.
-  More likely to complete college and develop employable skills.
-  Four times more likely to volunteer and work on community issues.
-  More confident in their ability to speak publicly and communicate with their elected representatives.

The current state of education falls short.

Civic education by the numbers...



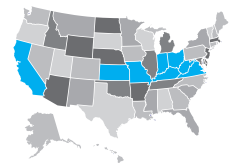
ONLY 9 STATES require a full year of civic education in high school.
10 STATES don't require it at all.



NEARLY 75% of Americans cannot name all three branches of government.



FEWER THAN 1 IN 4 students reach a "proficient" score in civics on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).



ONLY 8 STATES have a stand-alone assessment in civics.*

*does not include the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Civics Test as an assessment

Policy Recommendations

Restore the mission of schools with these bipartisan, research-based, results-driven policy goals.

STATE LEARNING STANDARDS



States should work to make their standards fewer, clearer and more rigorous by drawing on the College, Career, and Civic Life C3 Framework to emphasize the role of individuals and offer opportunities for students to learn to become thoughtful and informed participants in our civic life.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY



States should ensure that assessments address the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that make up a comprehensive preparation for civic life. State accountability systems should ensure that civics gains the attention it deserves.

COURSE AND TIME REQUIREMENTS



States should ensure that civics receives more time in the school day and that instruction draws on the research-based Six Proven Practices for Effective Civic Learning shown both to produce higher civic outcomes for students and support them in developing their own voice and their own beliefs.

PRE-SERVICE REQUIREMENTS



Teacher preparation should include at least a full course in civics and social studies and future teachers should be assessed for their capacity to effectively teach civics.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



States should provide adequate resources for ongoing teacher professional development in civics for all teachers.

EQUITY



States, districts and schools should establish strategies, such as including civics in state accountability systems, disaggregating results for subgroups, as well as devoting resources that will reduce racial and economic disparities in civic learning.

IMPLEMENTATION



States should identify and fund an in-state entity to help schools and districts implement new policies.

YOUTH VOICE



States should ensure youth representation on local boards, commissions, and other governmental bodies.

CULTURE AND LEADERSHIP



Schools and districts should ensure that policies and practices reflect democratic ideals, and that students experience democratic practices throughout the school day.

DEMOCRACY SCHOOLS



States should establish a recognition program for schools like that found in the Democracy Schools program in Illinois to reward excellence, and encourage continuous improvement.

**Sandra Day
O'Connor**

*Retired
Supreme
Court Justice*

October 23,
2018



“ It is my great hope that our nation will commit to educating our youth about civics, and to helping young people understand their crucial role as informed, active citizens in our nation. To achieve this, I hope that private citizens, counties, states, and the federal government will work together to create and fund a nationwide civics education initiative. Many wonderful people already are working towards this goal, but they need real help and public commitment. ”



Learn more at
CivXNow.org