

CivXNow State Policy Wins

CivXNow, a project of iCivics, is the nation's largest cross-partisan coalition to fuel our constitutional democracy through stronger state and federal K-12 civic education policies. In order to achieve our goal, CivXNow advocates for bipartisan federal and state legislation that support implementation of state and local policies that reimagine and deliver relevant, inclusive, and engaging K-12 civic learning, both in- and out-of-school.

Our coalition champions research-based policies that have attracted bipartisan support across red, blue, and purple states alike. Since 2021, twenty states have adopted twenty-two policies aligning with CivXNow's policy priorities. Three of these breakthroughs are profiled below:

Indiana

The Indiana Bar Foundation, a CivXNow State Affiliate, led the charge for passage of House Bill (HB) 1384 in Spring 2021. Sponsored by State Representative Tony Cook (R), HB 1384 requires a semester of civics in 8th grade. It also created a state civics commission chaired by Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch (R). The bill passed both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly with only a single "no" vote and was quickly signed into law by Governor Eric Holcomb (R) in April 2021.

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Civics coalition led advocacy efforts in Spring 2023 for a bipartisan bill entitled "More Time on Civics," requiring a semester of civics in middle school and instructional time for civics in grades K-5. The legislation passed with overwhelming support from Republicans, and was signed by Governor Chris Sununu (R) in August 2023. The new law outlines requirements for both public and nonpublic schools.

Under Senate Bill (SB) 216, sponsored by State Senator Sharon Carson (R), high school graduation requirements would remain the same: a half-year of instruction in civics and a full year of instruction in history and government. Students would also need to obtain a passing grade on a competency exam developed by their school and a grade of 70 percent or better on the 128-question U.S. citizenship exam. Schools will be expected to meet the new curriculum requirements by fall of 2024 with no additional funding from the state.

Governor Sununu also successfully secured \$1M in appropriations for a new civics textbook, something he committed to in his 2023 state budget.

Utah

In Spring 2022, State Representative Dan Johnson (R) and State Senator Chris Wilson (R) sponsored House Bill (HB) 273, which dedicated \$1.5 million over three years to pilot evidence-informed local innovations in civics teaching and learning under three categories:

1. Constitutional literacy
2. Media literacy or digital citizenship; and
3. Academic service learning initiatives grounded in an understanding of constitutional concepts and the policymaking process.

HB 273 passed both chambers of the Utah Legislature unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Spencer Cox (R) in March 2022.



These powerful policy wins in Indiana, New Hampshire, and Utah should serve as inspiration for similar progress across states and in our nation's capital. The CivXNow policy team and the Coalition's 300+ organizational partners are poised to work with you to strengthen K-12 civic education policies, helping to preserve our constitutional democracy for posterity. For more information on how CivXNow can help support your efforts, please contact:

▶ **Lisa Boudreau**

Director of State Policy
lisa.boudreau@icivics.org

▶ **Abbie Kaplan**

Associate Director of Federal Policy
abbie.kaplan@icivics.org



NHCLC member and social studies teacher Haley Goodwin joined other members of the public in testifying in favor of the "More Time for Civics" Bill (SB216) on February 14 before the NH Senate Education Committee.