The Site Validation Team has **validated information** to confirm that high quality civic learning is institutionalized to enable every student to participate in a civic inquiry and investigation at least once during their high school career. The team, therefore, recommends that this school be selected as a California Democracy School.

The Site Validation Team was **unable to validate** the full implementation of high quality civic learning for all students and cannot recommend that this school be selected as a California Democracy School.
Additional Comments

After examining a great deal of evidence, observing classrooms, and interviewing students, teachers, school administrators, and community stakeholders, it is abundantly clear that Pomona High School has established systems and practices to ensure that all students engage in civic inquiry and investigation activities to prepare them for civic life in the 21st century. There is also ample evidence to confirm that the initiative will be sustained in the years to come as a result of intentional capacity building and commitment of the staff and school community.

Members at Meeting:
- Muhammad Abdul-Qawi, Asst. Principal
- Roger Fasting, Principal
- Takiyah Rogers, English Teacher and Co-Coordinator
- Janis Barbee, English Teacher, AVID
- Arturo Molina, Co-Coordinator, AVID, History Teacher
- ASB President
- Partnership for a Positive Pomona
- Claremont McKenna College
- Senior Class President
- Students
- Parent, School Site Council
- Pomona Valley Branch of NAACP

Evidence of Institutionalization and Sustainability:
- Civic Inquiry and Investigation is implemented in:
  - All students in Grade 10 English class
  - All students in AP US History and all students in AVID grades 11 and 12 participate in a modified version of civic inquiry and investigation process. Students engage in service-learning project.
  - Several clubs and organizations at Pomona High School provide civic learning opportunities
- ASB voting process updated to reflect democratic practices including speeches, election, voting by all students.
- Political Awareness Club focuses on providing civics related information to students on issues that affect their daily lives. Activities have included:
  - Voter Registration for senior class
  - Mayoral Debate student organized and student led
  - Information about Presidential Candidates
- Civic Learning is included in Single Plan for Student Achievement as “Civic Learning for All” goal: “All PHS students, beginning in their 10th grade year, will participate in a civic inquiry and investigation to acquire knowledge, skills and disposition outcomes identified in the California Democracy School accreditation guidelines.” Budget proposal includes funding to support professional development, resources for student projects, release time, substitute coverage, etc. to support ongoing civic learning.
- Demonstrated commitment to train more teachers to implement the civic inquiry and investigation model.
- School is utilizing AVID as a linchpin for building civic learning across the curriculum. Pomona High School has been identified as an AVID Demonstration School.
- The school leadership team, School Site Council and Civic Teaching PLC group will routinely engage in the cycle of inquiry to continually monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Civic Engagement for ALL plan.
• Pomona USD Mission Statement includes reference to civic learning: …students will gain academic excellence and take personal and community pride as responsible citizens and productive participants in a diverse society and global economy.
• Curriculum Guide for Grade 10 English classes now includes the five-step process for civic inquiry and investigation at Pomona High School.
• Civic Learning referenced in WASC Accreditation.

Examples of Civic Learning projects
• English Class: Should labor policies be adjusted for working parents?
• APUSH/AVID Class: Voter registration project

Partnerships include:
• Claremont McKenna – Since 2010 Claremont students come to Pomona HS to assist with writing personal statements for college applications. Photojournalism program for 11th grade AVID classes embeds a civic project. Goal is to inform community of local issues.
• Movimiento Estudiantel Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and IDEAS of Claremont Colleges address local issues. Example: College scholarships for immigrant documented and undocumented Pomona High School senior students

Perspectives from Stakeholders:
• Students at Pomona are so engaged, it inspires me to be more like them. They have increased my desire to give back.
• Writing and finding your voice are key areas of focus of the Claremont McKenna project and we believe these things are important for finding your civic voice. Students’ writing has become more refined and purposeful.
• Youth believe they can do something to change their community as a result of the project they led that restricted the issuance of a liquor license to the local Wal Mart.
• The voter registration drive helped students learn how to interact with elderly people in the community, Spanish speaking residents and others. It has helped me realize that young people have great skills that I was not aware of in the past.
• Parents are now thinking about what they can do to strengthening their children’s civic engagement.
• The students find life more meaningful as a result of civic mindedness.
• Vocabulary of students has increased.
• Synergy with partners is growing.

Perspectives from Students:
• When you do community service you work a few hours and that’s it. But when you are in a civic action project you really interact much more with the community than just doing service.
• You feel like you are a much more meaningful person. People really care about us and what we are doing to help the community.
• I learned a lot and spread it to my peers and my family.
• It helped me learn “who I am” in the community. I am not able to teach people what an issue is and why it is important.
• Before this my parents didn’t realize how aware I was of issues in the world.
• My mom really likes that I am involved in things.
• My parents are both immigrants and they have been really positive about what I am doing. They like that I am becoming more connected with the community. It has given me a bigger manifestation of family.
• Before this, voting in school elections was more like a popularity contest. Now everyone is taking this seriously and really thinking about what candidates are really going to do for us.
• As a result of doing this, I am asking myself, “Am I fulfilling my duty as a citizen?”

One word to describe this project:
• Empowerment
• Amazing
• Inspiring
• Fantastic
• Positive
• Meaningful
• Igniting
• Educational
• Transformative
• Transformational
• Invaluable
• Purposeful