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.
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 the Road to Success Academy and Camp Scott and Scudder 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:
- Beatrice Rulli, Coordinator and ELA/Social Studies Teacher
- Kim Humphries, Principal
- Richard McCloud, History/English Teacher
- Charlie Phelps, Science/Math Teacher
- Jacalyn Tallamentes, Health Care/CTE Teacher
- Darren Price, SDC Teacher

Evidence of Institutionalization and Sustainability:
- RTSA curriculum centers on five themes: Beauty, Hope, Power and Empowerment, Transformation, New Beginnings. Each theme includes a civic learning element. Examples include:
  - Beauty Theme examples:
    - Should beauty pageants be banned?
  - Hope Theme Examples:
    - Should incarcerated felons be allowed to vote?
    - Should desalinization be used to tackle the drought?
    - Should voting be compulsory?
  - New Beginnings Theme examples (focused on immigration):
    - Should the military patrol the borders?
    - Should immigrants in the US illegally who are convicted of a crime be deported?
    - Should US born children whose parents are in the US illegally be deported?
  - Power and Empowerment Theme examples:
    - Should the US military continue its drone strikes abroad?
    - Should the citizens decide whether the US should go to war?
    - Should the US fight on foreign soil?
    - Should human genetic research (cloning) be utilized to eradicate diseases?
- Mission Statement for RTSA at Scott Scudder includes reference to civic learning: “...The Road to Success Academy also incorporates daily supportive activities to promote character development, civic mindedness and self-esteem that will empower them to make positive behavioral changes in their community.”
- Single Plan for Student Achievement for 2015-16 includes a focus on civic learning. 2016-17 Single Plan will also include a focus on civic learning.
- LACOE Board of Education passed a resolution to support civic learning.
- Diana Velasquez, RTSA Director allows Scott Scudder has approved curriculum themes to include civic learning foci. Interest exists to include civic learning modifications to curriculum at other sites.
- New teachers to the Scott Scudder site meet with experienced teachers to learn strategies and techniques to implement civic learning in their courses.
- Para-educators provide support for teachers in implementing civic learning.
- Each core subject area including CTE includes a civic learning component.
Examples of civic actions taken by students:
- Wrote legislation on changing California’s law to allow convicted felons to vote.
- Wrote letters to government officials to convey their point of view on current immigration issues. President Obama sent a reply to one of the letters.
- Created an environmental impact study on desalinization to the Poseidon Corp. in Huntington Beach, CA.

Impact on Students:
- Students have a deep awareness in what is occurring in their community as well as globally and are exchanging ideas and solutions through debate and action.
- Students now feel that they can make a difference in other people’s lives as well as their own.
- Students now feel empowered to be champion for the rights of all citizens and non-citizens.
- Principal: Civic learning gives students a voice. From this process, they have learned to speak up for themselves in their environment and their community in a productive way. That skill will transfer when they leave us. I believe they feel empowered.
- Kids are now realizing other things that are going on.
- Para-educator: Hearing the girls talking politics is something I have never heard here before. It’s exciting to see that. The girls are talking politics with their parents and urging them to register to vote.
- Parents are thrilled to see their daughters involved in the civic action piece because their child had never showed an interest in issues beyond themselves. It’s wonderful to see them care about others.
- Probation officers are also thrilled about the program – it’s changing their perspective about kids and their potential. They are happy to see them thinking and speaking intelligently. Some students will be presenting a proposal on environmental issue to Santa Clarita City Council with the help and support of Probation Department.
- Students are seeing the world in a much larger scope particularly in the math and science world.