Preparing ALL Students for College, Career and CITIZENSHIP

THE PROMISE OF CIVIC EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION NIGHT
THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION
APRIL 13, 2011

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Los Angeles County Office of Education

National Council for the Social Studies Board of Directors
What is the goal of education?

The Civic Mission of Schools is \textit{THE Essential Purpose of Education}

- 33 years of Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup polling: “educating young people for responsible citizenship” should be the primary goal of our schools.
- 2004 poll: 91% of adults responded that they were more likely to support policymakers who support strengthening civic education in the schools.
High Schools, Civics and Citizenship
AEI Study explored the attitudes and course offerings of front-line high school civics teachers.
America’s Civic Learning Crisis

- **The Decline of Civic Learning**
  - NCLB and the “narrowing of the curriculum”
  - History Learning *over* Civic Learning
  - Lecture format *over* student engagement
  - American Government only in Grade 12 in California
  - “*If it isn’t tested, it isn’t taught!*”
    - Center for Education Policy (CEP), 2006: 71% of districts reported they have reduced instructional time in at least one other subject to make more time for reading and math.
    - Only 21 states provide for testing in the social studies that includes civic education related test items.
Federal level support for civic learning is far below support for other subjects:

- While most education funding is provided by states and local districts, the Federal government plays an important role in providing funding for innovation and research.
- In recent years, the federal government spent $25.63 per US K-12 student for reading; $19.45 for science, technology and math; $2.44 for history; and only about $0.50 on civic education. (U.S. Department of Education data).
- FY11 funding for all civic education has been eliminated.
America’s Civic Learning Crisis

The Civic Opportunity Gap

- College-bound young people are much more civically involved than their non-college-bound peers. Rates of voting and volunteering are at least twice as high for those who attend college (CIRCLE, 2009).
- 2006 NAEP Civics results showed significant achievement gaps between Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students as compared to white students at the 4th, 8th, and 12th grades.
- IEA Civic Education Study: American students performed slightly above average, but the gaps between the most informed and least informed were among the worst in the world.
Concern Inequitable Engagement

*Unequal Voice*

**High vs. Low Income Citizens**

- 4x as likely to be part of campaign work
- 3x as likely to do informal community work
- 2x as likely to contact elected officials
- 9x as likely to contribute to campaigns

-Verba, Scholzman, Brady (1995)
Concern: Low Levels of Civic Values

Source: Monitoring the Future
Concern: Low Levels of Interest in Current Events

Percent of high school seniors expressing interest in current events

Source: Monitoring the Future
Concern: Low Levels of Political Campaign Work

FIGURE 2-6 Share of High School Seniors Saying They Can See Themselves Working on a Political Campaign, 1976-2001

“Will probably work” or “have already worked” in a political campaign

The California Study: 2008
Joseph Kahne, Mills College

- 502 Students
- 7 high schools from 7 different California school districts
- API scores ranged from bottom 20% to top 10%
- % of students receiving free lunch ranged from 1% to 83%
- Followed students for 3.5 years
- Diverse Outcomes
## Two Visions for Promoting the Civic Mission of Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information/Discussion-Based Education</th>
<th>Experience-Based Education</th>
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**Information/Discussion-Based Education**

**Experience-Based Education**
### Information and Discussion-Centered

**The Theory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civic Learning Opportunities</th>
<th>Civic Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Learning about social problems</td>
<td>• Activates awareness, interest, concern, and understanding which motivates participation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Learning about social policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Respectful discussion of controversial issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Linking civic/political issues to student interests</td>
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**Civic & Political Engagement**
## Experience-Centered
### The Theory

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<td>Simulations</td>
<td>Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Learning</td>
<td>Agency</td>
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<td>Extracurricular activities</td>
<td>Connection</td>
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<td>Commitment</td>
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#### Civic & Political Engagement
## Summary of Findings

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<th></th>
<th>Political Interest</th>
<th>Interest Diverse Views</th>
<th>Intent to Vote</th>
<th>Commit Participation</th>
<th>Volunteer Activity</th>
<th>Political Action/Express</th>
<th>Civic Skills</th>
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Civic Learning
Opportunities Matter

Student Access to Civic Education
Promising Practices

- 36% of students reported never participating in a simulation in high school
- 34% of students reported never doing service learning in high school
- 68% said they learned a lot about the structure and function of government
- 58% said they often discussed current events
- 46% said they were often in classes where a wide range of views were discussed

Inequitable Access to Civic Learning Opportunities

Race/Ethnicity

Compared with white students, Latino students reported:

- Fewer opportunities for service learning
- Less open classroom climates
- Fewer experiences with role plays and simulations

Inequitable Access to Civic Learning Opportunities

Student Achievement

Compared with AP American Government students, students in College Prep Government reported fewer of all civic learning opportunities.

- 80% of AP sample took part in simulations
- 51% of college prep students took part in simulations

Inequitable Access to Civic Learning Opportunities

**SES**

High SES 9th graders when compared to average SES 9th graders are:

- 2x more likely to discuss how laws are made
- 1.9x more likely to report participating in service activities
- 1.4x more likely to take part in a debate or panel discussion

## Conclusion:
**Democracy for Some**

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<th>Good News</th>
<th>Bad News</th>
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<td>Civic learning opportunities can support development of civic and democratic capacities and commitments.</td>
<td>Schools are not providing equitable access to these opportunities.</td>
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Los Angeles County Office of Education
Afflerbaugh-Paige Juvenile Court School

Students utilize *We the People: Project Citizen* to address a problem of concern to them - lack of career technical education course offerings in their educational program.

Students presented their public policy proposal to the LACOE Board of Education and Project Citizen State Showcase.
An International initiative designed to improve student understanding of democratic principles and civic deliberation skills.

- Cloning
- Cyberbullying
- Educating Non-Citizens
- Marriage and State
- Preventive War
- Violent Video Games
- Recycling

- Domestic Violence
- Euthanasia
- Global Climate Change
- Surveillance
- Voting
- Freedom of Expression
- Parent Liability
International Polytechnic High School
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Model Assembly
MAKE HISTORY COME ALIVE
Tour the Reagan Library

EDUCATION
There is always something new and exciting to learn at the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Presidential Learning Center, which delivers education programs here at the Reagan Library. Explore below to find about class trips, scholarship programs, free lesson plans, teacher workshops, and online student and teacher program opportunities.

CLASS VISITS
The Air Force One Discovery Center is an immersive, educational experience designed to inspire the next generation of student leaders.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS
Each year, we award college scholarships to encourage the pursuit of education and self-improvement for students in Ventura County and across the country.

LESSON PLANS
Resources for teachers.

REAGAN LIBRARY VIDEO TOUR
Emmy and Golden Globe winning Actor Gary Sinise hosts this informative video tour of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.
Watch now

UPCOMING TEACHER WORKSHOP & EVENTS
View all teacher workshops & events

STAY IN TOUCH
Book a tour, learn about curriculum, join our mailing list and more.

Contact Us
Showcasing Civic Learning

- **7th Annual Constitution Day Conference**
  Saturday, September 17, 2011
  The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation

- **91st National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference**
  December 2-4, 2011, Washington DC

- **51st California Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference**
  March 2-4, 2012, Orange County Hyatt
Rock the Vote & the NEA Announce Democracy Day!

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the passage of the 26th Amendment, Rock the Vote – in partnership with the National Education Association is launching the first annual Democracy Day!

Now through the end of the school year, educators across the country are celebrating Democracy Day in their classrooms with Rock the Vote’s Democracy Class program, a 45-minute, non-partisan high school lesson plan that teaches students the history of voting rights, walks them through the voter registration process, and engages them in a mock election.

And to add to the celebration, there is a contest for educators and students who participate to win prizes like iPod Touches, gift cards and concert tickets!

www.democracyday.com
Prepare all of America’s young people to be competent and responsible citizens who:

- are informed and thoughtful and have a knowledge of history and how American democracy works.
- participate in their communities and work with others to address cultural, social, and political issues.
- act politically by having the skills, knowledge and commitment to accomplish public purposes.
- are socially responsible, tolerant, and believe in the capacity to make a difference.

www.cms-ca.org
The P21 Framework calls for a well-rounded curriculum that integrates 21st century skills into all content areas for all students from our rich, diverse society to acquire:

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health literacy
- Environmental literacy

- SB 402 introduced by California State Senator Lou Correa
- AB 250 introduced by California Assemblymember Julia Brownley
Civic Mission of Schools 2.0 Report

In partnership with the Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics of the Annenberg Center for Public Policy, University of Pennsylvania; the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands, the National Conference on Citizenship and the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement at Tufts University; the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is in the process of updating the original Carnegie Corporation of New York and CIRCLE produced "Civic Mission of Schools Report."

The update will include lessons learned, new strategies and a clarion call for educators and policymakers to strengthen civic learning K-20.

Target Release Date: September 16, 2011
The Three Cs Education Petition Campaign

The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is sponsoring a petition campaign to remind all policymakers of the essential and historic role schools play in providing the knowledge, skills and disposition for informed and engaged citizenship.

Sign the petition to remind policymakers that there are three essential "C"s at the heart of education in the United States: preparation for success in College, Career, and Citizenship.

https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEVnYldDMEh3VzJEZXJTX281Nm04MEE6MQ

Support Education ☑ Click Here to Make Your Voice Heard
The end of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.

- Robert Maynard Hutchins