

The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

Creating an Informed, Engaged, Responsible Citizenry

A Guide for Parents, Teachers, School Administrators, Policy Makers, Business & Community Organizations

What Teachers and School Administrators Can Do...

- Develop civic education curriculum to align with History-Social Science and other discipline standards at all grade levels.
- Incorporate civic education participatory and cognitive skill development throughout the K-12 curriculum.
- Sponsor student activities and simulations that demonstrate democratic processes such as mock trial, debate, service learning, congressional hearings, and civil discourse.
- Discuss current events with your students.
- Provide extracurricular activities that support student-community connections, student leadership, and positive activism in governance and service.
- Encourage and support teachers to participate in civic education professional development activities.
- Explore civic education resources on-line and through non-profit organizations.
- Support high quality civic education through adequate resource allotment including funding, teacher time, scheduling, and curricula.

What Parents Can Do...

- Check that your child's school offers high-quality and comprehensive civic education.
- Support legislative issues to encourage high quality civic education curriculum at all grade levels.
- Discuss current events with your child.
- Encourage your child to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Model civic engagement through activities such as volunteering, informed voting, jury service, and involvement in local governance.
- Volunteer in your community *with* your child.
- Participate in community forums and neighborhood activism.
- Join your local PTA – encourage other parents to support the *Civic Mission of Schools*.
- Organize people to act politically to accomplish public purposes – group problem solving, public speaking, petitioning, etc.
- Encourage civil discourse, listening skills, understanding other perspectives, and becoming informed on issues.

What Policy-Makers Can Do...

- Support and provide opportunities for specific and intentional professional development in civic education, the principles of democracy, and the civic mission of schools.
- Propose and support a revision of the California History-Social Science academic content standards to include a clear set of civic education goals and objectives that build from one grade level to the next, with particular attention paid to civic knowledge, participatory skills, cognitive skills, and attitudes and dispositions of civic education.
- Encourage adoption of a California State Testing and Assessment system that includes stand-alone assessments in civic education at a minimum of three grade levels (upper elementary, middle school, and high school) or require assessment data in civic education to be disaggregated from other testing scores such as history, economics, geography, and language arts.
- Require the implementation of a systemic review of state curricula (i.e., standards, frameworks, assessment, and accountability) that allows for input from the field, evaluation of program effectiveness, opportunities for review and revision, and ongoing improvement in civic education.
- Support the adoption of a standing requirement for all pre-service teachers to demonstrate proficiency in understanding the basic tenets of high-quality civic education in a one-semester course.
- Advocate for the development of a California system of certification in civic education.
- Support and provide for adequate resource allocations that will ensure a high-quality civic-education delivery system including funding for high-quality curricular materials, professional development, professional collaboration, and multiple measures of assessment.

What Businesses and Community Organizations Can Do...

- Form partnerships with local schools to support the *Civic Mission of Schools*.
- Sponsor school events and extracurricular activities.
- Provide opportunities for young people and adults to volunteer to meet local community needs.
- Dedicate personnel time to volunteer in schools, assisting with school governance, student-community dialogue, classroom simulations, club activities, etc.
- Host a community forum to organize community members to join the effort.
- Integrate youth into leadership roles.
- Work with legislators and policy-makers to advocate, support, and develop high quality civic education programs in your community and state.

The mission of the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is to promote and advocate for intentional high quality civic education in California schools at all grade levels utilizing research –based educational methods to develop citizenship skills, knowledge, and dispositions.

For more information or to download this guide please visit our website.