



Proposed Recommendations for California State Policy in Civic Education

- Support opportunities for specific and intentional professional development in civic education, the principles of democracy, and the civic mission of schools.
- Implementation of a systematic review of state curricula.
- Revision of the California History-Social Science academic content standards that includes a clear set of goals and objectives for civic education.
- A standing requirement of passage of a one-semester course in the theory and practice of civic education for all pre-service teachers.
- Development of a California system of certification in civic education.
- Attention must be given to adequate resource allocation that will ensure a high-quality civic-education.
- The California State Testing and Assessment system should include stand-alone assessments in civic education at a minimum of three grade.

Project Mission

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.

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Visit the Campaign's website to access useful resources and learn about important updates.

EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools



A project of
Constitutional Rights Foundation
in collaboration with the
Center for Civic Education and
the Alliance for Representative Democracy

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The Challenge

Without an educated and involved citizenry, our democracy is in danger. Today many citizens do not vote, avoid political participation, aren't volunteering at the same levels and are not staying informed about crucial issues facing our state and country. Many are alienated by the political process.

Young people reflect these trends and studies demonstrate that the vast majority of students lack a proficient understanding of civics, U.S. history, or our constitutional heritage.

Civic Education is the Key

Our founders believed that informed, committed, and participating citizens are the life's blood of our democratic system. The civic education of young people always has been a primary mission of American public education.

Research shows that improvements are needed in the way civics is taught, yet, few resources exist for preparing teachers to teach civics effectively throughout the social studies.



The Civic Mission of the Schools

In 2003 the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement issued *The Civic Mission of Schools* (CMS) report. Based on the work of a distinguished group of educators, researchers, and scholars, the report identified four goals for civic education and six research-based recommended promising practices.



Goals of Civic Education

Civic education should help young people acquire and learn to use knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives. Citizens:

1. Are informed and thoughtful.
2. Participate in their communities.
3. Act politically.
4. Have moral and civic virtues.



Proven Practices

Research shows that the six proven practices listed below constitute a well-rounded and high quality civic learning experience.

1. Provide Instruction in Government, History, Law and Democracy.
2. Incorporate discussion of current local, national and international issues and events into the classroom, particularly those issues and events that young people view as important to their lives.
3. Design and implement programs that provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction.
4. Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their schools or communities.
5. Encourage student participation in school governance.
6. Encourage students' participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.

For more detailed information on each practice and the research behind each, please review the *Civic Mission of Schools: Guardian of Democracy*, 2011.