

TOP CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR STATE LEADERS



By Paul J. Baumann,
director for the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement

Most state education leaders agree that civic education is a must for students. High-quality opportunities for civic education are necessary to turn students into productive, informed and engaged citizens. This list of online resources provides a good starting point for education leaders who want to strengthen civic education in their state.

STATE CIVIC EDUCATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

Written with input from nearly 30 experts from across the civic education field, the *State Civic Education Policy Framework* provides a model for education, prekindergarten through post-secondary, or P-20, that identifies preparation for civic life as a core purpose of all state educational institutions and systems. This framework guides state policymakers as they address the complexities of preparing students for college, career and civic life. It allows for adaptation to state and site specific circumstances and may be adopted in whole or in piecemeal fashion, based on states' individual circumstances. For each element of the framework, this document includes examples to demonstrate how current state efforts are leading to significant positive change in civic education for all students, P-20.

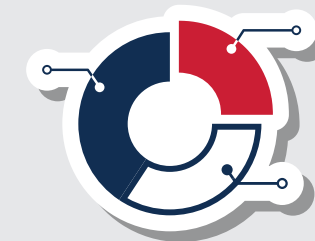
Find this publication at ecs.org.



STATE CIVIC EDUCATION POLICY: GAP ANALYSIS TOOL FOR EDUCATION LEADERS & POLICYMAKERS

The *State Civic Education Policy: Gap Analysis Tool* is a companion piece to the *State Civic Education Policy Framework* released by Education Commission of the States' National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement. The seven steps prescribed by this gap analysis tool guide education leaders and policymakers in comparing their current state civic education policies and practices with established evidence-based best practices and competitive benchmarks, and in using this analysis to identify strategic priorities for civic education policy improvements.

Find this publication at ecs.org.



COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE (C3) FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The *College, Career and Civic Life, or C3, Framework for Social Studies State Standards* provides a platform upon which states and districts can build their own standards and curricula. Written with broad input from across the social studies field, the *C3 Framework* emphasizes an inquiry arc through which students gain critical thinking, problem solving and participatory skills within the disciplines of the social studies, with the goal of developing each student as an active and informed citizen. The National Council for the Social Studies provides numerous supporting resources, including examples from states and districts that have used the C3 framework to develop their standards and curricula.

Find this publication and C3 framework resources at socialstudies.org.



GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY: THE CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS

Guardian of Democracy is a cornerstone document of the civic education field. This report provides research that confirms the decline of civic education in K-12 schools and makes a strong case for why a recommitment to robust civic education is needed for all students and for the sustainability of our democratic republic. The report describes six practices that are shown to produce growth in students' civic learning and engagement, and provides recommendations for policymakers and education leaders on how to go about systemically strengthening civic education.

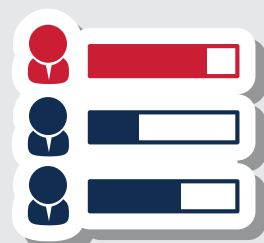
Find *Guardian of Democracy: The Civic Mission of Schools* online at civicmissionofschools.org.



A CRUCIBLE MOMENT: COLLEGE LEARNING & DEMOCRACY'S FUTURE

Another cornerstone document of the civic education field, *A Crucible Moment* makes a strong case for civic education in postsecondary institutions. Very much a call to action, the report stresses that postsecondary institutions need to reclaim their civic purposes. The report's authors provide postsecondary leaders with five essential actions that are necessary to prepare all students for full participation in civic life.

Find this publication at aacu.org/crucible.



50-STATE COMPARISON: CIVIC EDUCATION

Education Commission of the States and the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement periodically review state statutes, administrative codes, standards and curricula to capture the status of civic learning across the United States. This December 2016 update comes as states prepare to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act and includes innovative opportunities to provide students with a well-rounded education.

Find this publication and the 50-state comparison database at ecs.org.



ALL TOGETHER NOW: COLLABORATION & INNOVATION FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

This report makes the case that civic education must be a shared responsibility. Through thoughtful and easy-to-follow analysis of robust data, the report shows that parents and families, schools, peers, communities and the media all have significant influence on young people's civic development. Based on these findings, the report provides a series of recommendations to strengthen the civic engagement of young people.

Find this publication at civicyouth.org.



GUIDEBOOK: SIX PROVEN PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE CIVIC LEARNING

The purpose of this guidebook is to serve as a resource—a what's next?—for teachers, administrators, policymakers and other education leaders who want to put effective civic education practices in place but are not sure how to begin. This document highlights research that confirms these practices as proven strategies for implementing high-quality civic learning, provides practical suggestions for how to implement each practice in schools and classrooms, and gives examples of state-level policies that support these practices. This guidebook also outlines various programs that align with each practice.

Find this publication at ecs.org.



CIVIC EDUCATION: A KEY TO TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Authored by CSG senior fellows, Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene, this report provides a look at civic education through the lens of CSG's Focus on Federalism initiative. The report's authors identify challenges that education leaders and policymakers face when trying to strengthen civic education opportunities for students and make several suggestions for how to overcome these challenges. The report concludes with a lengthy list of civic education organizations, including those that focus on a specific state or that work specifically with state leaders.

Find this publication at knowledgecenter.csg.org.

