

Here's some info of several of the major civic education and media literacy for schools projects that are operating. I wrote a piece on this topic in 2017 and all these were operating then and are operating now.

That piece is outdated, of course, but if anybody's interested in pursuing this education angle, it does have a lot of background and quotes from scholars and staff at these organizations, etc., that are still relevant. I can't post it online because it was published with a lot of photos. But if anybody wants to see it (it's 13,000 words!), if you email me, I can send you a pdf. (It's also got some major bothsiderisms and false equivalencies that the editors insisted on! However, while the publication engages in that stuff, I do think the fact that it includes a lot of information as well redeems it to some degree...) Email is mcl Emmitt@gmail.com

News Literacy Project

<https://newslit.org/>

Our mission: The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan education nonprofit, is building a national movement to advance the practice of news literacy throughout American society, creating better informed, more engaged and more empowered individuals — and ultimately a stronger democracy.

Our vision: News literacy is an integral part of American life, and people of all ages and backgrounds know how to identify credible news and other information and understand the indispensable role a free press has in a democracy, empowering them to play a more equal and active role in the civic life of the country.

Checkology® NLP's browser-based platform, designed for students in grades 6-12, helps prepare the next generation to easily identify misinformation.

Educator newsletter This weekly newsletter delivers relevant media news and recent examples of misinformation, along with prompts and tips for classroom discussions and activities.

Professional learning NLP offers both in-person and virtual professional learning that provides strategies and resources for teaching news literacy.

NewsLitCamp® NewsLitCamp connects educators with local journalists for a unique professional learning experience.

News literacy podcast *Is that a fact?*, NLP's new podcast, informs listeners about news literacy issues that affect their lives through informative conversations with experts working to combat misinformation.

The Mikva Challenge

<https://mikvachallenge.org/our-work/programs/elections-and-campaign-experiences/>

Founded in 1998, Mikva Challenge began as a small pilot program with an all-volunteer staff in four Chicago schools; now 23 years later, Mikva has grown to serve over 17 states, 3200 teachers, and more than 135k students annually. Over two decades, Mikva has developed an education model based on the principles that: 1) youth voice matters, and 2) youth are experts on the issues that affect them; and 3) our communities and schools are stronger when youth leaders are involved in all aspects of civic life.

Youth-led Advocacy -- We believe that youth deserve a seat at the table with city and school leaders who make public policy. When young people are involved in decision-making processes that impact their lives, better decisions are made.

Elections & Campaign Experiences -- Through hands-on campaign work and interactions with candidates and elected officials, our Elections in Action programs empower young people to become informed about and engaged in elections – even before they are old enough to vote.

Project Soapbox -- Project Soapbox is Mikva Challenge's public speaking program that calls young people to speak out on issues that affect them and their communities. These powerful speeches have lasting, transformative impacts on classrooms, schools, and communities. Along the way, Mikva supports teachers with curriculum, connects community leaders to listen to speeches and give feedback, and facilitates citywide and regional events. Every year, the program culminates with Soapbox Nation, a showcase of the top speeches from around the country.

Action Civics Classrooms. -- We partner with teachers to develop student skills essential to problem-solving and civic action. Mikva Challenge's Action Civics curricula provides hands-on experiential lessons in: community problem solving (Issues to Action), youth leadership (Student Voice Committees), critical analyses of, and participation in, our electoral systems (Elections in Action), and thoughtful evaluation and creation of media (News, Voice, Power). Learn more about Mikva Challenge's Action Civics curricula. Beyond civics curriculum, we help educators create democratic classrooms.

Generation Citizen

<https://generationcitizen.org/>

THE PROBLEM

America faces the reality of an unjust and unequal democracy. Despite the idealistic promises of an American nation founded with declarations of equality, the political and economic system was historically designed to privilege, include, and prioritize the power and well-being of certain groups over others. This systemic marginalization of communities of color and low-income communities has resulted in a lack of equitable representation and political power at all levels of government, in addition to the perpetuation of policies that disadvantage, and often actively oppress individuals in those communities. As a result, our democracy is not as strong as it can and should be when all people can bring their unique perspective to the public sphere.

The road to a more equitable democracy begins with our schools—institutions whose historical purpose has always been to educate the next generation of citizens. And yet, civics education is not prioritized in our schools, and when it is taught, it often fails to inspire and engage young people to work towards a robust, participatory, and inclusive democracy.

YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BUT THEY DO NOT SEE INSTITUTIONAL POLITICS, AND INTERACTING WITH GOVERNMENT AS THE BEST WAY TO CREATE CHANGE.

POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION STILL MATTERS

OUR SOLUTION: ACTION CIVICS

Teaching young people across the country how to drive change through the political process. Generation Citizen's action-civics curriculum is the driver's education course for civic engagement.

GENERATION CITIZEN BELIEVES ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEARN HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE AS CITIZEN

We inspire civic participation through a proven state standards-aligned action civics class that gives students the opportunity to experience real-world democracy. Through student-driven projects, youth learn how to effect policy change by engaging with local government and leaders to solve community problems. GC students receive an effective, action-oriented civics education that promotes long-term civic engagement and builds collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills that students will need throughout their lives. The result is passionate and responsible civic participation that will help create the more active citizenry and more responsive government of our future.

OUR CURRICULUM

Generation Citizen's action civics curriculum is the crux of our work and of both our Democracy Coach-led and teacher-led models.

THE CURRICULUM IS ACTION-BASED, ALIGNED TO RELEVANT STANDARDS, AND ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS.

It has been published, has received recognition from the National Council of Social Studies, and has been iterated over time with the support of GC staff, teachers, volunteers, and consultants. Over the course of GC's in-class program, students choose an issue they care about, develop a focused, strategic plan to address the issue, take real action, and then reflect on their successes, challenges, and plans moving forward.

Each semester culminates in a Civics Day, in which student representatives from classes in each city present their plans to other students, community members, and public officials, celebrating their work and gaining feedback to further their efforts. Civics Day is a chance for students to explore ways to continue their civic engagement after the end of the program. In the past, we have had governors, mayors, members of Congress, and other politicians as keynote speakers on Civics Day.

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION Beyond enjoying successful action projects, we want Generation Citizen students to end their semesters with an understanding of how they can effect real, lasting change in their communities. We want them to approach this challenge politically - instead of thinking about solving hunger by serving at soup kitchens, thinking about it by broaching structural issues that enable hunger, such as lack of funding for adequate school breakfast programs.

JOE FOSS INSTITUTE

<https://cptl.asu.edu/JFI>

Full Curriculum -- The Civic Literacy Curriculum is a resource for teaching and learning American civics. Organized around but going beyond the U.S. Citizenship Test, it is -- available as both a full curriculum and abridged study guides.

The full Civic Literacy Curriculum offers over 100 lessons including historical background, edited primary texts, exercises, worksheets, discussion prompts, and other tools to incorporate into your class, whether in-school or home-learning.

These materials are completely free. ASU aims to make it easier for educators to access the tools they need to effectively teach the next generation of leaders. Click the button below to access the curriculum guide.

iCivics

https://www.icivics.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA7bucBhCeARIsAIOWr--sXRKpdy7UT-ofgLiBF0MZJuBFDZaC9e5e79p-kGpYB42w3Lnq9aQaAiNxEALw_wcB

Our Vision iCivics envisions a thriving American democracy supported by informed and civically engaged young people.

Our Mission We champion equitable, non-partisan civic education so that the practice of democracy is learned by each new generation. We work to inspire life-long civic engagement by providing high-quality and engaging civics resources to teachers and students across our nation.

Our Story iCivics was founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 2009 to ensure that all Americans have the knowledge and will to participate in our unique experiment in self-government.

Since then, iCivics has become the nation's premier non-profit civic education provider of high-quality, non-partisan, engaging, and free resources to more than 9 million students annually, in all 50 states. That equates to the majority of our nation's middle and high school students.

iCivics first-of-its-kind digital civic library includes more than 260 curricular resources, digital literacy tools, professional learning materials, and educational video games. And behind those numbers lie countless young people who now feel the weight of their civic roles and agency. Our engaging resources are proven to improve civic knowledge, skills and dispositions.

Our resources work iCivics works because we make the subject come alive. Our innovative games and resources teach young people to understand how our political systems work by allowing them to experience it first-hand and empowering them to address real-world issues. iCivics is popular with students because it's fun. But teachers have fast adopted iCivics because our free digital resources are high quality, easily adaptable for their classroom needs, standards-aligned and effective.

National Action Civics Collaborative

<https://studentsatthecenterhub.org/resource/national-action-civics-collaborative/#:~:text=The%20National%20Action%20Civics%20Collaborative,in%20the%20schools%20and%20communities.>

The National Action Civics Collaborative (NACC) brings together a group of diverse education and youth serving organizations committed to advancing action civics, a project-based authentic way to empower students to get engaged in their schools and

communities. Designed for teachers and community-based educators, the NACC site provides an overview of the approach, powerful stories of student leaders featuring their own voices, and useful tools.

Educators ready to get started will want to check out the Action Toolbox which includes sample lessons and evaluation tools.

Illinois Civics Hub

<https://www.illinoiscivics.org/>