The Civics of Tomorrow, Today: A Policy Agenda for State Civics Support
NCSS Annual Conference
Austin, TX November 23, 2019

● Please sit together with others from your state (K-12 and higher education)
● Please access the session materials via https://tinyurl.com/y467g6c2
Introductions

Dave Buchanan,
Director of Massachusetts Programs, iCivics

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Introductions

Steve Masyada
Director, Florida Joint Center for Citizenship at the Lou Frey Institute of the University of Central Florida

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And you?

Please share your name, state and role
Agenda

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. The CivXNow Coalition

III. Group review of policy recommendations

IV. Action planning to effect change in your state

V. Final thoughts/Conclude

Materials - Handouts/Googledrive folder
6M Students/100,000 Teachers: Celebrating A Decade of Growth!

FREE Product Suite

20 GAMES

200 LESSON PLANS

ELL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

2 DIGITAL LITERACY TOOLS

REAL WORLD PROJECTS
CivXNow! Coalition
Gaining Momentum
Empowering Teachers & Preparing Students for Civic Life

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
- K-12 Curriculum Support
- Primary Source Lessons
- Action Civics
- Middle School Assessment Prep
- Professional Development
http://floridacitizen.org

Lou Frey Institute
University of Central Florida
Promoting the development of enlightened, responsible, and actively engaged citizens.
http://loufreyinstitute.org

Online Professional Development for New to Civics Teachers
Three Course Series:
1. A Prepared Classroom
2. A Cognitively Complex Classroom
3. A Cohesive Classroom
Free for Florida Educators
Contact Steve for more info:
stephen.masyada@ucf.edu

Civics360.org
Student Resources for Middle School Civics
- Instructional Videos
- Readings in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole
- Vocabulary Activities
- Assessment Practice

Students Investigating Primary Sources
- A National Archives Partnership
- Brief mini-lessons using primary sources to teach civics, government and U.S History topics for Grades 2-12
- Perfect for Constitution Day & Celebrate Freedom Week!
The current state of education falls short.

Civic education by the numbers...

ONLY 9 STATES require a full year of civic education in high school. 10 STATES don’t require it at all.

NEARLY 75% of Americans cannot name all three branches of government.

FEWER THAN 1 IN 4 students reach a “proficient” score in civics on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Few STATES have a stand-alone assessment in civics.*

*does not include the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Civics Test as an assessment.
The Current Challenge: The Time is Now

Having a democratic political system is a “bad” or “very bad” way to run this country

Percent responding that “having a democratic political system is a “bad” or “very bad” way to run this country” by age group.

Mounk/Foa 2016
Students who experience high quality civic education are:

- More likely to vote and discuss politics at home.
- More likely to complete college and develop employable skills.
- Four times more likely to volunteer and work on community issues.
- More confident in their ability to speak publicly and communicate with their elected representatives.
Civic education is the teaching and learning of social studies, history, government, media literacy, and other disciplines as well as a set of experiences in classrooms, schools, and communities designed to develop well-informed, equitable, and effective participants in the civic life of the nation.
College, Career and Civic Readiness: *Dimensions of Civic Learning*

Civic Knowledge

Civic Intellectual Skills

Civic Participatory Skills

Civic Dispositions

Civic Readiness


http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccr/definition.pdf
Florida Civics Education Timeline

2006: HB.7087
The FL Legislature adopted a provision requiring that districts offer at least a semester of civics in middle school

2008: Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
Grade level specific social studies standards
40 Civics and Government Benchmarks in 7th Grade

2010: Justice Sandra Day O’Connor Civics Education Act
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<th>Value 2</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Number of iCivics teacher users</td>
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<td>Performance on State Civic Test 2018</td>
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<td>78%</td>
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Massachusetts

iCivics co-founded the MA Civic Learning Coalition with BIG results

• New MA History and Social Science Curriculum Framework

• New civics education law, Chapter 296

• Accountability - Possible new social studies test

• New funding for civics - $1.5 million for implementation

• Implementation 2019-2020 academic year
New MA State Law - Ch. 296

- Civics Project Trust Fund
- Voter Challenge
- Teaching of HSS/civics, including media literacy
- DESE provide PD
- Civics projects
- Civics Challenge
- Youth participation on boards
Illinois - Democracy Schools

Provides recognition of exemplary schools and funding and implementation, from the McCormick Foundation, to support Exemplary Practices outlined in the Illinois Civic Blueprint:

- Vision and Leadership
- Curriculum
- Staff Development
- School-Community Connections
- School Climate
Recognizing that preparing our youth to assume the responsibilities and understand their rights as active participants in the civic life of this great nation is essential to the health of our Republic, the CivXNow Coalition pledges to help every school in the nation fulfill its historic and vital civic mission. We pledge to ensure that every young person acquires the civic knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary for informed and authentic civic engagement.

Read more

https://www.civxnow.org/
Our Coalition – and growing!
Educating for American Democracy: A Roadmap for Excellence in History and Civics Education for All Learners

CivXNow
A PROJECT OF iCivics

ASU School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership
Arizona State University

Tufts University

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

CIRCLE

EDMOND J. SAFRA Center for Ethics
COALITION POLICY MENU

A Guide for state and local policymakers, with options to strengthen and improve civic learning for all students
Policy Resources

Menu Process

• Culmination of 6 mos. of work by the CivXNow Policy Taskforce
  • 16 leaders in policy and education
• Includes input from the broader Coalition and outside reviewers
  • Current and former officeholders with expertise in civic engagement, civil rights, advocacy, and policy
  • Over 50 people involved in the development

Resources

• Model legislation
• Directory of state policies
• State Case studies
• Democracy School models
• Research

PR Campaign

• Written about in
  • Politico
  • EdWeek
  • The Fulcrum
  • The Hechinger Report
What are the recommendations in the CivXNow Policy Menu?

**Task 1:** (10 min + 5 min report out =15 min)

Jigsaw - [https://tinyurl.com/y467g6c2](https://tinyurl.com/y467g6c2)

1. Access the Policy Menu in the Googledrive folder (link above OR from the CivXNow site: [https://www.civxnow.org/](https://www.civxnow.org/))
2. Divide into 10 small groups
3. Each small group reviews an assigned recommendation from the Policy Menu, makes notes on the Template/Googledoc - see *Template 1 in Task 1* folder at the link above
4. Report out a summary to contribute to the jigsaw.

**Materials:** CivXNow Policy Menu/Template 1-CivXNow Policy Menu Recommendations
Recommendations

Bipartisan, Research-based, Results-driven Menu
State Learning Standards: States should work to make their standards fewer, clearer and more rigorous by drawing on the College, Career, and Civic Life C3 Framework.

Assessment and Accountability: States should ensure that assessments address the knowledge, skills and behaviors that make up a comprehensive preparation for civic life.

Course and Time Requirements: States should ensure that civics receives more time in the school day and that instruction draws on the research-based Six Proven Practices for Effective Civic Learning.
Pre-Service Requirements: Teacher preparation should include at least a full course in civics and social studies and future teachers should be assessed for their capacity to effectively teach civics.

Professional Development: States should provide adequate resources for ongoing teacher professional development in civics for all teachers.
Equity: States, districts and schools should establish strategies and devote resources that will reduce racial and economic disparities in civic learning.

Implementation: States should identify and fund an in-state entity to help schools and districts implement new policies.

Youth Voice: States should ensure youth representation on local boards, commissions, and other governmental bodies.
School Climate, Culture and Leadership: Schools and districts should ensure that policies and practices reflect democratic ideals, and that students experience democratic practices throughout the school day.

Democracy Schools: States should establish a recognition program for schools like that found in the Democracy Schools program in Illinois to reward excellence, and encourage continuous improvement.
Let’s Plan!

Guiding question: *How could you take the policy recommendations and examples to improve policy regarding civic education in your state?*

Link to folder: [https://tinyurl.com/y467g6c2](https://tinyurl.com/y467g6c2)

Task: **Action Planning** (20 min + 10 min report out = 30 min)

- **Planning** - Working with the planning template provided for your group and using the CivXNow Policy Menu for reference, develop a plan for taking action in your state focusing on the following:
  1. Needs - What’s needed in your state? Where are the gaps?
  2. Goals - What policy initiatives would make the most sense in your state?
  3. Action Steps - What other groups could you connect with to form a coalition in your state?

- **Report Out**
  1. What do you plan to do? What are 2 – 3 immediate steps you plan to take?
  2. What other groups could you connect with to form a coalition in your state?

**Materials**— Template II - State Policy Action Planning (See folder for Task 2 in Google drive folder). CivXNow Policy Menu
Final Thoughts

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#CivXNow