

DEMOCRACYREADYNY **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**



NEW YORK
CIVIC LEARNING
WEEK

Free webinar series!

March 10-14, 2025

Did you know all NY students have a right under the state constitution to an education that prepares them for engaged civic lives? Civic readiness is an important purpose of public education and a priority in New York State.

Learn about how our schools can fulfill their vital civic mission.

  **DemocracyReady NY will offer a series of exciting free virtual events and resources during New York Civic Learning Week (CLW) 2025. Sign up for as many as you wish.** (All events will be recorded and shared with registrants who cannot attend live.)

Monday, March 10th at 4:00 - 5:00pm ET - The Right to Civic Education: A Conversation with Judge William E. Smith

Tuesday, March 11th at 4:00 - 6:00 pm ET- *The Third Annual Summit on Civic Readiness, Building a Media-Literate Future: A Cross-Generational Call to Action*

[Register Today!](#)

Looking for ways to participate in New York Civic Learning Week at your school or organization? Plan event or activity to celebrate the civic mission of schools.

Whether you're an educator, a student organization, a community group, neighborhood institution, civic group, or youth-serving organization, you can participate by developing programming that advances civic education and participation!

[Let us know](#) how you're celebrating and we'll share your event!

UPDATES FROM OUR COALITION MEMBERS

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN, DO SOMETHING, & LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The NYC Civic Engagement Coalition is hosting a **Unlocking Civic Careers event** in celebration of Civic Learning Week.

Wednesday, March 12th | 5:30 - 6:30 pm ET (VIRTUAL)

Have you ever wondered how you could make a living working in the field of civic engagement? Join us online and hear from working professionals at a Civic Career panel guided by young people, for young people.

Civic engagement can be so many things and includes using skills like public speaking, advocacy, research, outreach, journalism, and more! You're invited to meet individuals working in different aspects of civic engagement and how they got into the field. You'll walk away with more knowledge about pathways in civics and how being involved in civic engagement and/or advocacy can help you build skills no matter what jobs you end up pursuing in the future. [Register Here.](#)

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

Bringing Student Civic Learning & Reflection to Life with Infographics, Tuesday, March 11th 7-9 pm ET

Join Facing History and KQED during national Civic Learning Week to explore ways students can identify, research, and communicate about issues they care about. [Register here.](#)

Facing History has many [classroom-ready curricular resources](#) designed to support civic education in your classroom and school contexts. Aligned to core Facing History practices, these resources provide civics lesson plan ideas, instructional strategies, and tools that prepare all students to participate as informed, ethical, and empowered civic actors in our democracy.

[Explore their civics resources for New York educators](#)

GENERATION CITIZEN

At Generation Citizen, we believe in the power of civic leadership to create lasting impact. By equipping young people with the tools to address local issues, we empower them to step up, take action, and continue the work of those who came before them.

The next generation of changemakers is here—leading with purpose, turning ideas into action, and ensuring that progress doesn't stop with them.

Interested in partnering with Generation Citizen? [Visit to learn more.](#)

INQUIRING MINDS INSTITUTE

Inquiring Minds Institute, along with its student team of 8-17 year olds, developed 3 programs recently for elementary schoolers to grow their civic mindedness - all are available for free.

- [Teacher's guide: 10-15 minutes Voting Protocol for K-5 grades](#)
- [Kids can co-create their classroom constitution](#)
- [Building a democratic classroom - a protocol for morning meeting](#)



Pictured: The team of 8-17 year olds in NYC, including David, Lizzy, Raquel, Bilal, Dina and Miles (missing is Livi) was facilitated by DK Holland of Inquiring Minds.

MIKVA CHALLENGE

Did you know? Mikva Challenge offers a portfolio of curricula to help educators and youth workers develop youth voice and guide informed action. Designed by and for educators, our curricula is adaptable to your needs and aligned with CCSS, C3 standards, Social and Emotional Learning, and equity in the classroom. Empower your students to make a difference! [Learn more here.](#)

THE NYS GRANGE

Read the latest [January/February Empire State Granger Newsletter.](#)

PROJECT LOOK SHARP

[Project Look Sharp](#) - in collaboration with AASL - is offering a new version of its well-received online course *Empowering All Students Through Media Decoding*. The course trains K-12 educators in [Constructivist Media Decoding \(CMD\)](#) – a student-centered, curriculum-driven, question-based methodology (with materials) for K-12 integration. This is the first time we've opened up this course for K-12 teachers as well as librarians.

The course will run March 4 - May 6, and includes 2 live online sessions with the creators of CMD, 4 interactive self-paced modules, and individual coaching as participants create their own media decoding activity and teach it with students.

Read the latest [February newsletter](#) for lessons on Black History, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Social Justice.

UNITED 4 SOCIAL CHANGE

United 4 Social Change offers a range of accessible interdisciplinary civics education courses on philosophy, economics, history, global issues, data, and more at the [Academy 4 Social Change](#).

YVOTE

The [Youth Civic Hub](#) is a for-youth, by-youth digital platform equipping NYC high school students to be engaged and informed civic actors. The site, developed by high school and college youth from NYC-based nonprofit organizations, features civic resources and opportunities specifically geared towards young New Yorkers.

The Hub's current features include:

- [Opportunity Board](#): Find civic programs, events, and volunteer opportunities in NYC.
- [Weekly Newsletter](#): Sign up for a weekly digest with curated opportunities and events from the Hub's Opportunity Board.
- [Power Map](#): Learn about 90+ elected officials, including their responsibilities, recent legislation or actions and who else in the local government they work with.
- [Civic Glossary](#): Breaking down complicated civics terms with youth-written definitions and examples.
- [Organization Directory](#): Find dozens of NYC-based organizations that serve young New Yorkers.

And more features are on the way! The Youth Civic Hub is a one-stop-shop for NYC teens to plug in to local changemaking efforts and enhance their own civic learning (with great potential for in-classroom use).

IN OTHER NEWS

New York Students Need Media Literacy Education Now

The [DemocracyReady NY Coalition](#) issued a new report calling on the New York State Education Department to advance *universal access to media literacy education* for all New York students. The report presents a plan to help guide state education officials in taking immediate action to ensure New York does not continue to fall behind other states that have already taken steps to ensure their students become media literate.

In today's world, media literacy is a necessity and must be part of the pathway to a high school diploma. Young people engage with screen media for many hours each day, and media messages influence nearly every aspect of their lives. Media literacy encompasses the knowledge and skills students need to think critically and make responsible decisions about the media they consume, create, and share. It provides a vital set of tools that ensure young people can navigate the new world of social media, artificial intelligence (AI), and other emerging technologies.



NEW YORK STUDENTS NEED MEDIA LITERACY EDUCATION NOW
A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR NEW YORK STATE



Read Our Plan

Teachers Advancing Civic Learning (TACL)



Scan this QR Code to join now!



CivXNow
A PROJECT OF ICIVICS

- [Join the CivXNow Teachers Advancing Civic Learning network!](#) Teachers Advancing Civic Learning (TACL) is a grassroots network of educators trained and empowered to advance and strengthen civic learning through policy at the local, state, and national levels.
- CivXNow is excited to introduce a [revamped State Policy Menu](#) designed to streamline policymakers' access to K–12 civic education policy recommendations. This new concise format allows for quick comprehension of complex policy issues, making it easier to capture lawmakers' attention and spark meaningful dialogue. Each one-pager provides a brief overview of a key policy challenge and solution; clear, actionable policy recommendations; and links to relevant legislation, reports, and articles.
- Listen to the latest episode of the Next Generation Politics Roundtable podcast, "The Why vs. The How — Which Shapes Us?" with guest speaker, UCLA Professor Dr. Rob Carpenter. [Listen here](#)
- Watch the DemocracyReady NY New York Civic Learning Week 2024 Webinar Series [here](#).

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

New York Public Library

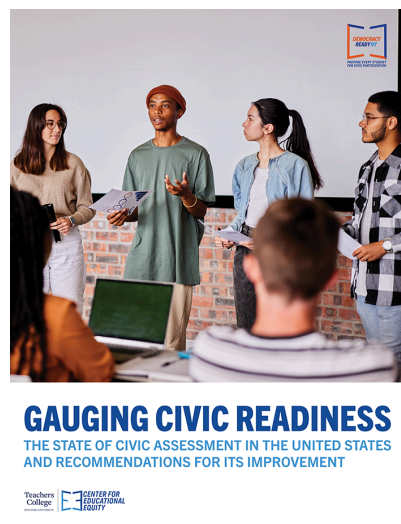
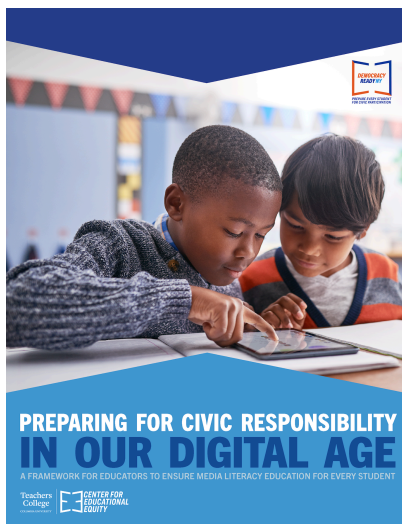
- Check out New York Public library's [College and Career Pathways Resources](#) calendar to stay up to date with scholarships, internships and program opportunities.

Take a look at this [list of scholarships](#) and consider applying!

Women in Law Student Event

- The Women in Law program brings students and legal professionals together to educate high school students about various professions in the law and to promote the advancement of women in the legal profession.
- The Women In the Law Program is being held on **March 5, 2024, (4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.) at the New York County Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street, Room 300, New York, NY 10007.**
- There is no cost to attend this program. [Register here by February 21st.](#)

READ THE LATEST FROM DEMOCRACYREADY NY



[Preparing for Civic Responsibility in Our Digital Age: A Framework for Educators to Ensure Media Literacy Education for Every Student](#)

- Authored by media literacy expert Faith Rogow, PhD, this media literacy education outcomes framework is written for pre-K-12 school librarians, teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, and the educators and policymakers involved in creating state education standards or teaching pre-service courses for education professionals.

[Gauging Civic Readiness: The State of Civic Readiness in the United States and Recommendations for Its Improvement](#)

- Preparing young people for their civic responsibilities in a democracy is an essential role of schools in the United States. Yet, this report shows that over 80% of states currently ignore the need to assess the full extent to which students are being prepared for capable civic participation.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

[DemocracyReady NY](#) is a statewide, nonpartisan, multigenerational coalition committed to preparing all students for civic participation. Coalition members include educators, researchers, youth leaders, education stakeholder groups, civic education practitioners, youth-development specialists, parents, civic

leaders, and advocates. Founded in 2018 by Michael Rebell and Jessica Wolff, the Coalition is convened by the Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Center's mission is to strengthen educational rights for all students through research, legal strategies, and collective advocacy.



Teachers College, Columbia University



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