

DEMOCRACYREADYNY MARCH NEWSLETTER

Now on
Youtube!

Watch Civic
Learning Week
Virtual Events



Watch Here

[3rd Annual Summit on Civic Readiness, Build a Media-Literate Future: Youth Call for Action](#)

A youth-led conversation about the responsibility of schools, big tech, and media creators in shaping how young people consume and understand digital content.

[The Right to Civic Education: A Conversation with Judge William E. Smith](#)

U.S. District Judge William E. Smith who wrote the decision in the Rhode Island right to civic education case *Cook v. McKee* discussed the case and his views on the importance of civic education with Michael A. Rebell, lead counsel for the plaintiffs.

UPDATES FROM OUR COALITION MEMBERS

ALLIANCE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

ICYMI– On March 24th the Alliance for Quality Education created a call relay for parents and community members to make three quick calls to New York State leadership, urging them to fund the child care workforce and the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Even if the scheduled call times have passed, you can still call, leave a message, continue calling tomorrow, spread the word in your community, and call each day until the budget is finalized. Your calls can ring in a brighter future for child care in New York!

If you would like to join Alliance for Quality Education in action stay up to date with their [action updates](#)

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN

Join Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC) for a Celebration on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at The Museum of Modern Art, a special art gala and cocktail party celebrating the new leadership at CCC as we look toward a brighter future. Celebrate CCC's leadership and innovation, while supporting their mission to put facts first and advocate for government action that meets the needs of our youngest New Yorkers. [Buy a Ticket or Donate Here!](#)

CITIZENS UNION

Take part in Citizens Union's next Civic Conversations, a series of semi-monthly programs on topics important to New Yorkers and our civic lives. On Wednesday, April 2nd Civic Conversation will host New York State Attorney General, Leticia James.

[Register](#) for the in-person event here

GENERATION CITIZEN

Are you an educator passionate about civic education? Generation Citizen's Teacher Leadership Board (TLB) is accepting applications for its next cohort.

As a TLB member, you will have the opportunity to shape national civics initiatives, contribute to program and curriculum development, and amplify teacher voices in the movement for civic learning. Board members collaborate with local and national partners, participate in key events, and provide critical insights that help strengthen civic education across the country.

This is a paid leadership opportunity that includes a \$1,000 stipend per year, professional development, and thought leadership opportunities. If you are ready to make an impact beyond the classroom, apply today!

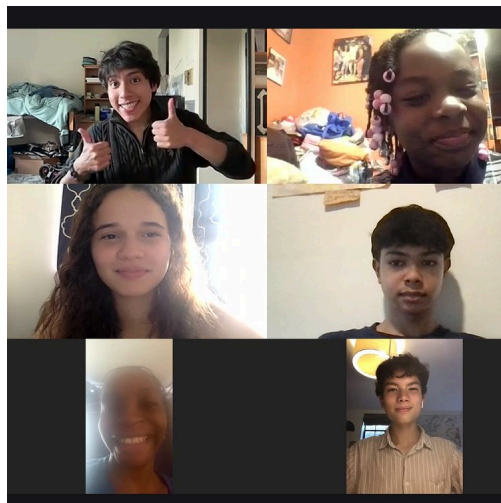
Apply now: www.bit.ly/GC-TLB

Application deadline: June 19, 2025

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.](#)

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

Consider nominating yourself or a fellow NYSCSS colleague for one of the open seats on the Board of Directors for a two-year term starting July 1, 2025. These officer positions require attendance at monthly board meetings, and other duties listed below by position. Please be advised these duties may change in accordance with needs of the organization and amendments made to the Leadership Manual.

Nominations open March 10, 2025 and close May 12, 2025 at 4PM. Head over to their [website](#) to review requirements and apply!

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Join the New York State School Boards Association on Wednesday, April 23rd for an insightful and informative webinar designed to help school districts successfully welcome their new student school board representative. We will cover the essential steps for selecting, onboarding, and integrating a youth leader into your governance team, ensuring their voice is both heard and valued.

You will hear from youth leaders and their mentors from New York State and the National Student Board Association, who will share diverse perspectives, practical insights, and firsthand experiences on how to effectively support and empower student leaders, while also addressing common challenges and best practices.

[Register Here!](#)

THE NYS GRANGE

Read the latest [March/April Empire State Granger Newsletter](#).

PROJECT LOOK SHARP

Read the latest [March newsletter](#) for lessons on Ramadan, Food and Agriculture, and Women's History.

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



NY Students Need Media Literacy & Civic Education **Now!**

New York Students Need Media Literacy Education Now

 [Send a letter](#) to your NYS Assembly and Senate representatives. Tell them to strengthen K-12 media literacy instruction and civic education opportunities!

New York will likely soon confront a dismantling of critical federal education resources, including at the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The NY State Legislature can help by creating new policies and investments, such as professional development opportunities for library media specialists and other educators; more librarians in K-12 schools; and dedicated class time in elementary, middle, and high school for media literacy and civic education.

Urge legislators to strengthen comprehensive K-12 media literacy instruction and civic education opportunities that teach not just civic knowledge but civic skills, civic values and dispositions, and civic behaviors in a relevant and engaging way while fostering civics and reflecting our founding ideals throughout the school climate, culture, and leadership.

[Take Action!](#)

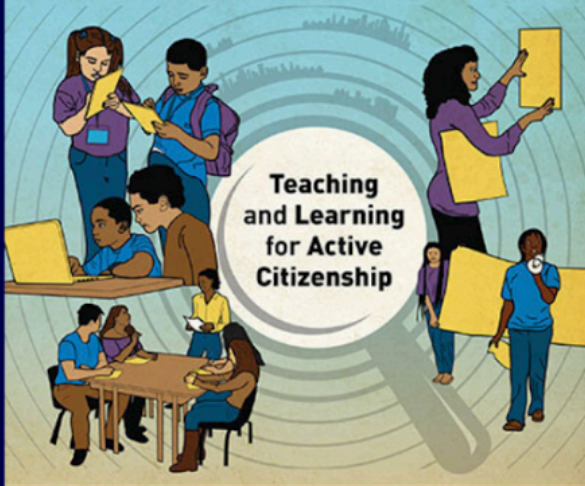
You're Invited
to Participate!



Teachers College
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

YPAR Workshop and Book Launch

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH IN **YOUR** CLASSROOM



Teaching
and Learning
for Active
Citizenship

Beth C. Rubin

Foreword by Thea Renda Abu El-Haj

RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN SOCIAL STUDIES SERIES

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April 21, 2025 | 6:30-8 PM

Smith Learning Theater, Russell Hall 4th Floor
Teachers College, Columbia University

- [Join us](#) to learn about how Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) can turn classrooms into sites of engaged, student-centered civic learning, and how the new Teachers College Press/NCSS publication, [YPAR in Your Classroom: Teaching and Learning for Active Citizenship](#), (for discount use code YPAR at checkout) can support you in doing so! **Date and time:** Monday, April 21 · 6:30 - 8pm. **Location:** Teachers College, Columbia University, Smith Learning Theater, Russell Hall 4th Floor, 525 West 120th Street New York, NY 10027
- [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](#)

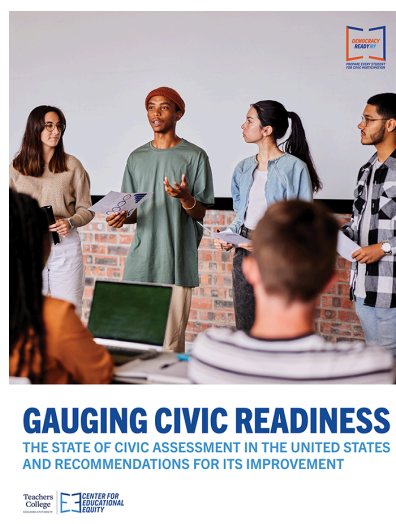
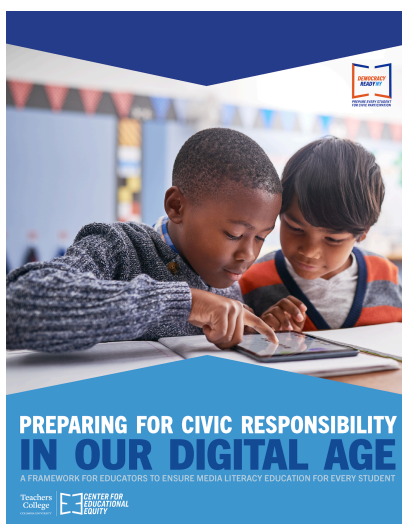
YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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!

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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