

# DEMOCRACYREADY NY NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



As we wrap up the year, we reflect on the outstanding leadership of our DemocracyReady NY Youth Members.

In a time when we face rising political polarization, disinformation, and diminishing trust in our institutions—it's more important than ever to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and values to navigate these challenges.

The good news? Young people are full of hope and passion. They are not only eager to learn but are also experts in the needs of their schools and communities. When young people have access to a quality civic education, they rise to the challenge and help strengthen our democracy from the ground up.

This giving season, and always, we are thankful to our youth members leading the way to prepare all New York students for civic participation! When you make a donation to DemocracyReady NY, your gift will directly support high school and college students with stipends to take part in our civic learning programming.

Support our work

## UPDATES FROM OUR COALITION MEMBERS

### DOSOMETHING

We know this election season has been an intense one, and you might be feeling a mixed bag of emotions right now. Whether you're excited, frustrated, or *just plain exhausted*, we're here for you.

[In this space](#) you will find bespoke actions, materials, and resources curated to help take care of yourself, stay informed, and remind yourself that YOU still have the power to shape the future you want to see post-election.

### FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

Breaking down the historically one-sided narrative about Thanksgiving in the US has been a decades-long effort, led by historians and Indigenous communities. Facing History [takes a look at that legacy and offers substantial resources for educators of all grades.](#)

### **GENERATION CITIZEN**

Our Fall/Winter Civics Days are quickly approaching!

This year, we are hosting Civics Day in New York City on Friday, January 10th. Sign-up with one of the links below to become a community advisor!

DEADLINE Friday, December 20th: [Sign-up here.](#)

### **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 [November/December Empire State Granger Newsletter](#)

### **PROJECT LOOK SHARP**

[Read the November newsletter](#) for media literacy lessons on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and social emotional learning.

[In this week's Albany Times-Union](#), Chris Sperry of Project Look Sharp and the Center for Educational Equity's Nan Eileen Mead call for New York State policymakers to take immediate action to strengthen media literacy education and make it a core component of the P-12 learning experience.

### **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).

## New York Students Need Media Literacy Education Now

Last month, as part of U.S. Media Literacy Week 2024, 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, "Beyond the Headlines: Media's Impact on the 2024 Election" [Listen here](#)
- Watch the DemocracyReady NY New York Civic Learning Week 2024 Webinar Series [here](#).

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES**

## New York Public Library

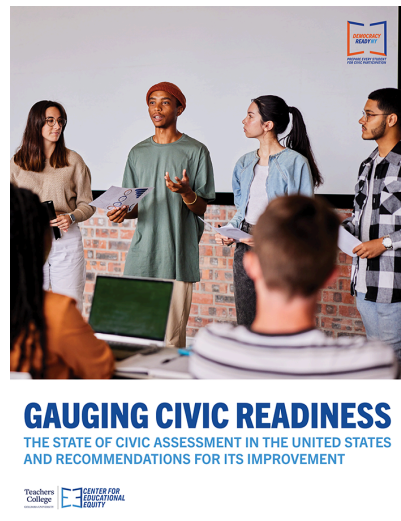
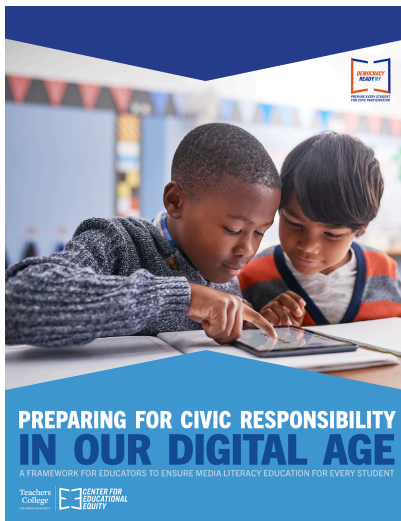
- Check out New York Public library's [College and Career Pathways Resources](#) calendar to stay up to date with scholarships, internships and program opportunities.

## National Association for Media Literacy Education

- We're seeking passionate, dedicated young individuals to join our 2025 Youth Advisory Council. This council plays a crucial role in shaping NAMLE's initiatives, advocating for media literacy, and contributing to the growth of media literacy education nationwide. By joining the council, members will have the unique opportunity to make a tangible impact, develop leadership skills, and collaborate with peers and professionals in the media literacy field.
- [Learn more and apply before Dec. 2](#)

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.



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**Teachers College, Columbia University**



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