

Minnesota Civic Education Coalition

“Knowledge of our system of governance and our rights and responsibilities as citizens is not passed along through the gene pool. Each generation of Americans must be taught these basics.” ~ Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Proven Practices Lead to Proven Outcomes through Civic Education

Raising good citizens doesn't happen by chance. Just like we teach children to brush their teeth, eat healthy foods, exercise and get enough sleep, we also need to help them develop the knowledge, skills and motivation to participate in civic life.

Preparing ALL students for informed, engaged participation in civic and democratic life is not only essential, but is consistent with the aims of increasing student achievement and closing achievement gaps. It is also consistent with preparing students for 21st-century careers. Through extensive, bipartisan research, we know the proven practices that constitute a well-rounded and high-quality civic learning experience.

The Minnesota Civic Education Coalition trains and supports K-12 teachers in their efforts to deliver these experiences and offers supplemental experiences for students to further expand civic learning.

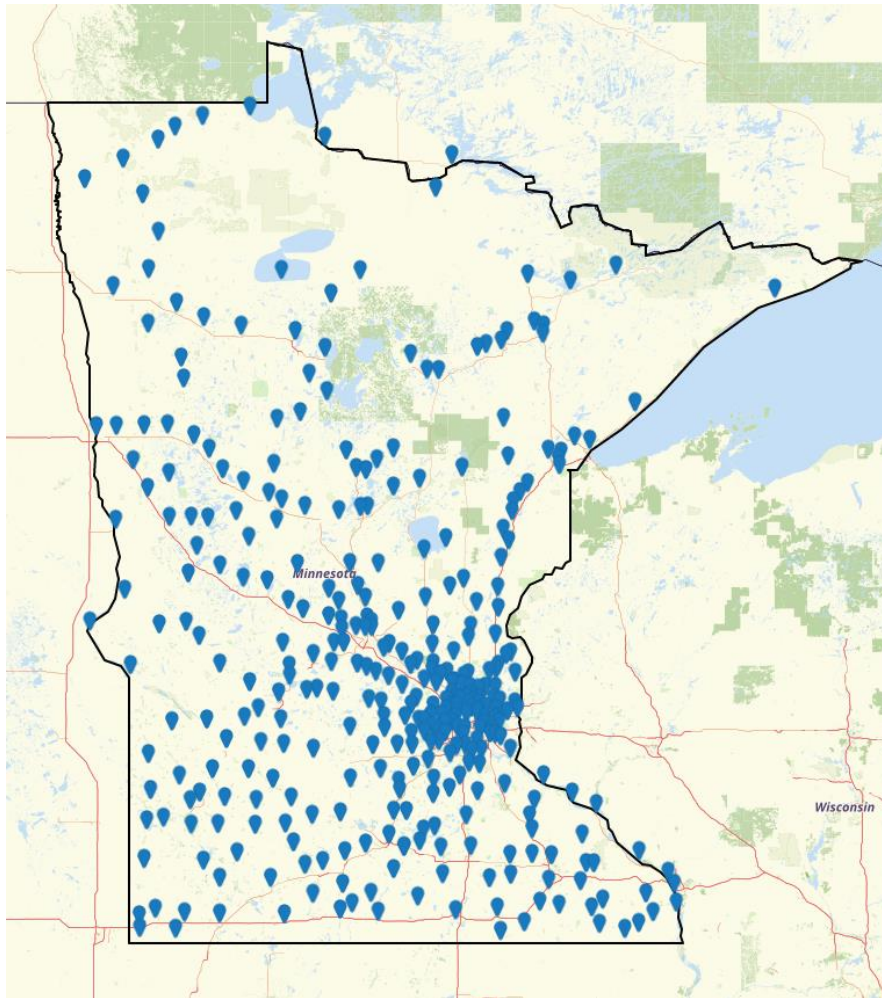


2024-2025 Request

The Minnesota Civic Education Coalition is requesting \$150,000 each year from the Education Finance Committee (HF2696 and SF1935). Funding will support civic education programs youth ages 18 and under to provide teacher professional development, educational resources, and program support focused on:

- The constitutional principles and the democratic foundation of our national, state and local institutions;
- The political processes and structures of government, grounded in the understanding of constitutional government and individual rights;
- The development of skills needed to be engaged and effective participants in today's public life.

Who Does the Minnesota Civic Education Coalition Serve?



During the past two years, the Minnesota Civic Education Coalition has delivered programming in more than 400 Minnesota communities and supported civic learning for thousands of K-12 students statewide. Notable outcomes include:

- MN teachers and parents accessed government and civics lessons via www.teachingcivics.org more than 16,000 times. This represents a 61% increase fueled by the need for distance learning resources.
- Delivering professional development to more than 400 educators.
- Providing an authentic, 2022 Election-day voting experience for 100,000 K-12 students in 300 schools statewide.
- Leading programs for more than 2,000 middle- and high-school students to serve in model governments at the state, local, national and international levels.
- Providing the opportunity for more than 600 middle- and high-school students to develop their advocacy skills and practice them during one-on-one meetings with their local elected officials.
- Helping to place more than 1,500 student election judges in the 2022 election.

“ The whole school participated in Students Voting. Every student felt like their voice was heard and it validated their belief in the process. It was a great experience for them to be able to practice being responsible citizens so that one day when they grow up, they will be prepared to participate in the political process. ”

~ Greater MN middle school teacher



Select Minnesota Civic Education Coalition Programs



Super Civics

Super Civics recognizes the opportunity presented to K-8 teachers and their students to start building their toolboxes for civic learning. Each building block is essential to prepare a young person for a rigorous civic education in high school and full participation in the American experiment in democracy as an adult.

Super Civics connects teachers with tested lessons and strategies in the toolbox, as well as deepens their own knowledge of our system of government and the rights and responsibilities of the people who are charged with running it.

Youth in Government (YIG)

YIG is a hands-on civic learning program where students in grades 8-12 become legislators, lawyers, judges, lobbyists, the media, or cabinet members and spend four days running a state model government in the MN Capitol Complex.

Students meet in delegations throughout the fall to learn about state government and their program areas. They come together with more than 1,200 other students from across the state in January to elect their own leaders, debate their own ideas and build a vision for a strong state.



Respectful Conversations in Schools

Democratic societies thrive on discussion, dissent and debate. Too often, however, our society provides poor role models for young people trying to learn the skills to be effective, active and responsible participants in that democratic society.

The Respectful Conversations in Schools (RCS) protocol is designed to provide teachers and students with a tool for talking about important current issues while enhancing classroom culture and learning outcomes.

RCS has been shown to increase students' leadership and social emotional learning skills, as well as strengthen competencies for success in college, career and civic life.