



Civic Readiness for All Students K-4



Civic Readiness is the ability to make a positive difference in the public life of our communities through the combination of civic knowledge, skills and actions, mindsets, and experiences.

What is Civics? The study of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Who are Civic Ready students?

Student who use civic knowledge, skills and mindsets to make decisions and take actions for themselves, their communities, and the public good.

What is a community?

A community is a social unit (a group of living things) with commonality such as norms, religion, values, customs, or identity.

Communities work together to meet the needs of those who are part of it. There are many kinds of communities you might be part of: your school; your neighborhood; your city or town. Communities can work together to solve problems, make changes, or improve things for everyone. People in a community might have different ideas, look different, or not agree on some things.

Why is Civic education important? People work together in many ways to create a community. You might see people working together in school, in your family or in shops and business such as a restaurant or a grocery store. Each of us contribute to our communities. Civics education highlights these connections between ourselves and other people. It is through these connections that we can make a difference in our local, national and international communities. One of the big reasons we have Social Studies in schools is to make sure that you are civic ready and an actively engaged participant in the life of your communities. Civics education helps everyone to work together to create positive change while respecting what makes us each unique.

Civic Readiness is:



CIVIC KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of our government and how it is organized.
- Grade appropriate understanding of geography, culture, law, and current events.
- Age appropriate understanding within our democratic system
- Rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and Constitution of the State of New York.



CIVIC SKILLS & ACTIONS

- Demonstrate kindness to others.
- Participate in important discussions in your school, community, and family.
- Research news stories to find out more.
- Engage in classroom debates - respectfully disagreeing with other viewpoints and provide evidence for a counterargument.



CIVIC MINDSETS

- Being different is okay.
- Thinking about the future, my own and others is important.
- Treat others how you would like to be treated.
- Actively participate with others respectfully.
- Making choices while considering those around us.



CIVIC EXPERIENCES

- Active involvement in a school or community issue that concerns you—trash pickup in the community; ideas for recess and lunch time at school.
- Writing to your town/city or state officials about an issue important to you.
- Watching or reading age appropriate news.
- School or classroom voting.

Civic Knowledge

Examples of fundamental Civic Knowledge include:

- What kind of government do we have in the United States; the structure and functioning of government, law, and democracy at the federal, state, local, and school levels, and how to participate;
- Discussing why people vote and having classroom voting;
- Discussion the Bill of Rights and creating a classroom Bill of Rights;
- History, geography, economics, and current events within our country and in our global society; and
- Discussing what makes a community; map out what students community looks like.

Civic Skills & Actions

Examples of Civic Skills & Actions include:

- Discuss and/or participate in activities that focus on a classroom or a community problem and analyze different solutions;
- Recognizing what it is like to be an American - values and beliefs;
- Identify rights and responsibilities in classrooms, schools, and communities; and
- Identify differing philosophies of social and political participation.

Civic Mindsets

Examples of key Civic Mindsets include:

- Valuing equity, inclusivity, diversity, and fairness;
- Recognizing the need to plan for both current needs and the good of future generations;
- Empathy, compassion, and respect for the views of people with other opinions and perspectives;
- Demonstrating a sense of self as an active participant in society, willing to contribute to solving local and/or national problems; and
- Discussion on what makes a good community member.

Civic Experiences

Examples of Civic Experiences include:

- Showing respect in issues involving differences and conflict; participate in negotiating and compromising in the resolution of differences and conflict;
- Exploring how anyone can create positive change in his or her school, community, or country;
- Participating in school and community governance, ;
- Taking responsibility for improving one's community—locally, in government at all levels, and in the broader world; and
- Identify and help solve problems within ones community.