



# Strengthening the Republic

A Call for *Transformative* Civic Education

"What have we got?"

"A Republic... If you can keep it."



## What We Have Done

**90%** of high school students take at least one civics class, and most states have a requirement.<sup>1</sup>

**40%** more students are likely to vote when they turn 18 if they learn about voting.<sup>2</sup>



Civic participation was found to increase patriotism.<sup>3</sup>

## What Needs Improvement

**60%** of rural youth and 30% of their urban and suburban peers live in places without access to meaningful civic engagement options.<sup>4</sup>

**25%** attain proficiency on the NAEP Civics Assessment. White, wealthy students are four to six times more likely to exceed that level.<sup>5</sup>



Research shows that students struggle to evaluate information online.<sup>6</sup>

## What We Need to Do



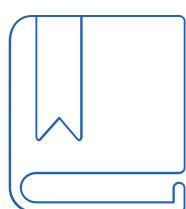
Make high quality civic education a priority for ALL K-12 students.



Implement the Six Proven Practices\* for Civic Education.



Assure district and school support to social studies teachers using civic education's proven practices.



Provide teachers with access to high quality disciplinary and civic education resources.



Increase attention to media literacy education.



"We pay a price when we deprive children of the exposure to the values, principles, and education they need to make them good citizens."

— Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice<sup>7</sup>

"America must get to work. In the chill climate in which we live... America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better."

— Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice<sup>8</sup>



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### \*Six Proven Practices

1. Provide instruction in government, history, law, and democracy.
2. Incorporate discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events in the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives
3. Design and implement programs that provide students with opportunities to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction.
4. Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their schools or communities.
5. Encourage student participation in school governance.
6. Encourage students' participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.

Read more at <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/10/48/11048.pdf>

### References

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### Portraits

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