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Importance of Civics Education

Research indicates that students who receive a well-rounded civics education are more likely to become active and engaged members of their communities. Illinois has strengthened its emphasis on civics education across middle and high school classrooms.

Civics education at both grade bands must include the following content:

- Government institutions
- Discussion of current and societal issues
- Service learning
- Simulation of the democratic processes

Recommendations

The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools recommends the following proven practices in providing quality civics education.



Provide Classroom Instruction



Connect Service-Learning



Encourage Student Participation in School Governance



Discuss Current Events and Controversial Issues



Offer Extracurricular Activities



Foster Participation in Simulations of Democratic Processes

High School

Beginning with students entering 9th grade in 2016, students shall receive one semester in civics education, to help students acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives.

Middle School

Beginning in 2020, every public elementary school student will receive a semester of civics education during 6th, 7th, and/or 8th grade to help students acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives.

Questions? Contact ISBE's department of Curriculum and Instruction at teachtalklearn@isbe.net

