

# CivicsAlliance

from NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of SCHOLARS

## State Legislation: K-12 Civics Education

**T**he Model K-12 Civics Code covers the entire range of K-12 civics education legislation. We have based this Model Civics Code as much as possible on existing state laws. The Code provides civics education reformers in each state a coherent model for what civics education should be.

### Classroom Reform

Five model bills remove discriminatory ideologies and action civics from public K-12 classrooms. The *Partisanship Out of Civics Act* removes discriminatory ideologies and action civics from social studies classes. Four other bills eliminate service-learning pedagogy entirely from public K-12 schools (*Classroom Learning Act*), prohibit school walkouts (*Politics Out of Schools Act*), prevent identity-politics distortions of the curriculum (*Schools Nondiscrimination Act*), and prevent public schools from grading students for their level of commitment to any value or attitude that requires assent to any philosophy or political framework (*Values Assessment Act*).

### School District Reform

Four model bills reform public school administration to ensure that education administrators comply with laws removing Critical Race Theory and action civics. These bills include a requirement to make publicly accessible both school documents (*Academic Transparency Act*) and school expenditures (*Financial Transparency Act*), as well as a bill to create born-open documents at both the K-12 and university level (*Born-Open Documents Act*). They also prohibit school districts from doing business with contractors that discriminate by using Critical Race Theory policies (*Contractor Nondiscrimination Act*).

## School Board Reform

Three model bills strengthen parental control over school boards by shifting school board election dates to the general election (*School Board Election Date Act*), by establishing straightforward procedures by which to recall school board members (*School Board Member Recall Act*), and by making it easier to place new agenda items into school board business and to comment on existing business (*School Board Agenda Act*).

## Legislative Oversight

The *Legislative Review Act* gives the state legislature and the governor the power to veto a state academic standard proposed by the Education Department.

## Social Studies Instruction

Eight model bills establish a framework for proper K-12 social studies instruction. Four linked bills include overall required social studies instruction (*Social Studies Curriculum Act*) and requirements for year-long high school courses in Civics (*Civics Course Act*), United States History (*United States History Act*), and Western Civilization (*Western Civilization Act*). Other bills include a requirement that students take a civics test as a graduation requirement (*Civics Literacy Act*), that social studies classes use the historical documents of liberty (*Historical Documents Act*), and that schools be permitted to offer nonsectarian instruction in the Bible, especially of its role in establishing America's ideals of liberty (*Religious Liberty Act*). An eighth bill establishes a commission to draft social studies standards based on *American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards* (*American Birthright Taskforce Act*).

Learn more at <https://civicsalliance.org/model-k-12-civics-code/>