

PARTICIPATE IN CIVIC LEARNING WEEK

MARCH 10-14, 2025

THEME: CIVIC LEARNING: MANY VOICES, ONE NATION

Help shape young minds by enlightening, encouraging, and empowering citizens through a week of events that inspire and foster informed and responsible citizens.

This weeklong initiative promotes a better understanding of democratic values, rights, and responsibilities, preparing and encouraging citizens to actively engage in their community to strengthen and uphold our democracy.

Civic Learning Week is much more than a five-day span in the month of March. It's a special time to acknowledge the importance of civic literacy and to create and build civic learning programs that instill lifelong values to sustain our democracy and the rule of law.

Event / Program Ideas	Description
Courtroom in the Classroom	Judges and lawyers visit schools to conduct mock trials and discuss the judicial process, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and civic responsibilities.
Interactive Court Tours	Organize courthouse tours where students and adults observe proceedings, meet judges, and learn about the judicial system's roles.
Historical Perspectives	Assist and coach students to reenact landmark Supreme Court cases to understand their significance and impact.
Research Projects	Students research and present how major court decisions have shaped the United States and New York.
Debates	Facilitate debates on significant and legal topics such as RAP Act, cellular telephones in schools, school hours, standardized testing, DEI, Media literacy, Voting, Jury Diversification, and the Civil Rights Act.
Community Dialogues / Forums	Host discussions between judges, lawyers, and community members about how the courts serve the public.
Public Forums and Town Hall Meetings	Students, educators, legal professionals, and community members discuss important civic issues, share perspectives, and work towards common goals.
Resources	
Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission	Visit FHW website for educational resources to teach students about Civil Rights leader Franklin H. Williams, the visionary and trailblazer.
Historical Society of the New York Courts	Visit the Historical Society of the New York Courts for a myriad of resources and teaching tool kits for all age groups.
ICIVICS	Visit iCivics for A non-partisan organization founded by the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor to advance civic learning.
DemocracyReadyNY Coalition	A New York coalition of iCivics founded by Michael Rebell, Esq. dedicated to promoting civic preparation of students statewide. Visit NY Civic Learning Week DemocracyReady NY for resources and virtual Civic Learning week activities.
Justice Resource Center	Visit Justice Resource Center for educational resources and volunteer opportunities.