



Civic Learning Initiative

Providing Meaningful Opportunities for Students to Become Active, Informed, and Engaged

The Council on Public Legal Education (CPLE) has launched an ambitious Civic Learning Initiative (CLI) to bolster civic learning for Washington State students.

High quality civic learning is the most important factor in determining whether students will actively participate in their communities as adults. A democracy thrives when its citizens vote, show up for jury duty, engage in public life, join neighborhood groups, are aware of current civic issues, identify and listen to viewpoints other than their own, attend local government meetings, or voice their concerns to lawmakers.

SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The Civic Learning Initiative will specifically address gaps in civic learning and determine how the state can be more effective in providing meaningful civic learning for all our Washington youth. It will focus on the policies, resources, and support necessary for success in K-12 schools and youth development programs.

INITIATIVE GOALS

- Ensure that all Washington youth have access to high quality civic learning both in school and in out-of-school programming — satisfying six proven practices of the Civic Mission of Schools.
- Foster collaboration between in-school and out-of-school civic learning educators so that opportunities for training, programs, curricula, and professional development are networked and shared.
- Promote equity by prioritizing civic learning opportunities for underserved youth — especially youth of color, immigrant and refugee youth, and youth in rural communities.
- Establish local civic learning partnerships.
- Raise public awareness and support for civic learning.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- The Civic Learning Initiative kicked off in January 2017 with an initial summit for educators and legislators focusing on identifying civic learning obstacles and solutions to accomplish the goals.
- In 2018 we hosted a second summit featuring Justice Sonia Sotomayor and a showcase of high-quality civic learning programs in Washington.
- The summits will result in increased collaboration with the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the creation of a public-private partnership. Also, iCivicsWA, a state-specific version of the national online iCivics curriculum, was launched.
- Council successfully lobbied for a new civics bill in 2018.
- Two local civic learning partnerships were created.

INFORMATION

To learn more about the **Civic Learning Initiative** contact Margaret Fisher at margaret.fisher@courts.wa.gov or 206-501-7963, or visit www.courts.wa.gov/education.

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