



Center for Civic Education

ELEMENTS OF SYSTEMIC IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIC EDUCATION

Goal

To improve teaching and students' mastery of advanced knowledge and skills in civics and government and to foster a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles of the American constitutional democracy

Introduction

The following describes the tasks necessary to institutionalize effective programs in civics and government in public and/or private schools. Also presented are steps contributing to the attainment of each task. The purpose of this outline is to provide a guide for activities of state teams and a means of evaluating progress in furthering the goals of civic education in their states.

The full achievement of **all** of the tasks specified is **not** expected or possible within the time frame of the series of congressional conferences on civic education. Each state delegation should assess which of the following tasks are most realistic and productive to undertake given the circumstances in its state and the resources and time available.

Depending upon a state's particular circumstances it might be reasonable to focus attention on a single task, such as the development of standards. In other circumstances, a set of tasks might be addressed, such as the establishment of required courses in civics, a process for credentialing teachers, and leadership and network training. Some tasks might be viewed as sequential: the development of standards prior to the development of a curricular framework or a statewide assessment program.

Finally, because programs in a number of participating states are also being supported by other sources, this outline can be used to ensure that civic education improvement efforts are well coordinated and form a comprehensive and rational approach to the improvement and institutionalization of effective programs in civics and government.

Tasks and Indicators of Achievement

Task: Standards

Development and establishment of content and performance standards in civics and government

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development and dissemination of standards
 - Participation of “gatekeepers” and others influential in the developmental process
 - Presentations of standards to education policymakers
- Institutional adoption of standards

Task: Curriculum Framework

Development and adoption of a K-12 curriculum framework in civic education

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development and dissemination of the curriculum framework
 - Participation of “gatekeepers” and others influential in the developmental process
 - Presentations of the curriculum framework to education policymakers
- Institutional adoption of curriculum framework

Task: Required Courses

Formal requirement for instruction in civics and government in the school curriculum throughout grades K-12

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development and dissemination of course outlines
 - Participation of “gatekeepers” and others influential in the developmental process
 - Presentations of course outlines to education policymakers
 - Pilot programs of courses accompanied by evaluations
 - Demonstrations of courses
- Institutional adoption of course outlines

Task: Curricular Materials

Provision of instructional materials aligned with the standards and curriculum framework

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development and dissemination of curricular materials
 - Participation of “gatekeepers” and others influential in the developmental process
 - Presentations of curricular materials to education policymakers
 - Pilot programs using curricular materials accompanied by evaluations
 - Demonstrations of the use of curricular materials
- Institutional adoption of curricular materials

Task: Teacher Education

Establishment of pre-service and in-service education programs to develop the capacity of teachers to provide high quality instruction in the use of the instructional materials in order to promote attainment of the standards

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development and dissemination of teacher education programs
 - Participation of “gatekeepers” and others influential in the developmental process
 - Presentations of information on teacher education programs to education policymakers
 - Pilot teacher education programs accompanied by evaluations
 - Demonstrations of teacher education programs
- Institutional adoption of teacher education programs

Task: Leadership and Network Training

Establishment of training programs to enhance the capacities of leaders of civic education programs in program planning, budgeting, networking, administration, implementation, curriculum development, evaluation, and related tasks associated with the systemic implementation of civic education

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development and dissemination of leadership and network training programs
 - Participation of “gatekeepers” and others influential in the developmental process
 - Presentations of information on training programs to education policymakers

- Pilot leadership and network training programs accompanied by evaluations
- Demonstrations of leadership and network training programs
- Institutional adoption of leadership and network training programs

Task: Assessment

Establishment of assessment programs to determine student attainment of standards

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development of assessment programs, procedures, and instruments
 - Implementation of assessments of
 - the existing state of student knowledge, skills, and attitudes in civics and government
 - pilot programs
 - Dissemination of results of assessments
- Institutionalization of assessment programs

Task: Credentialing

Establishment of licensure to ensure that all teachers develop the subject matter and pedagogical expertise needed to prepare all students to meet the standards

Steps contributing to attainment

- Development of credentialing requirements in civics and government
- Promulgation of requirements
- Adoption of requirements
- Institutionalization of supportive educational programs for teachers