



Illinois Civic Mission Coalition: Democracy Schools Initiative
CIVIC AUDIT FOR ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOLS
 PROSPECTUS and AGREEMENT: SPRING 2006

Introduction. The Democracy School Initiative, a project of the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition, encourages schools to consider creating a deliberate and thoughtful educational atmosphere in which students explore authentic experiences in and education about the rights, responsibilities, and tensions inherent in a constitutional democracy. Just as schools plan their curriculums for math, science, and language arts, it is important that they plan and develop their “democracy” curriculum.

The Civic Audit for Illinois High Schools. Six civic learning indicators developed by the Coalition have been incorporated into a “Civic Audit for Illinois High Schools.” A self-assessment tool, the Audit can, when completed, assist schools in reflecting and evaluating current classroom and extracurricular activities.

Call for applications. The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, convenor of the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition, is soliciting applications from teacher teams in Illinois high schools willing to pilot the “Civic Audit for Illinois High Schools”. The Coalition expects that up to six Illinois high schools will participate initially, that the audit will be completed from March through May, and returned by June 16, 2006.

► Since support from school administration is critical to the success of this project, the principal of each school applying must endorse the project by signing this application where indicated.

- Each participating school will receive \$3,000 to be used for the implementation of the audit and the module design. \$1,000 will be remitted upon completion of the audit and \$2,000 for participation in the summer 2006 institute.

- Each participating school will be provided assistance in the form of a graduate student who will visit each school to work with the teacher team to complete the audit.

- Each school completing the audit will be recognized as a Democracy School by Illinois elected officials at a statewide event to be held in October or November 2006.

► An important goal of the Democracy School Initiative is the creation of innovative and useful classroom modules and simulations. A three-day summer institute – July 12, 13 and 14 – for high school teachers will be an opportunity to come together to discuss modules and simulations. The agenda for July 14th will be devoted exclusively to teachers participating in the audit pilot project.

- Interested schools, teachers and principals should indicate their interest in completing the audit by signing this agreement.

- The deadline for return of this application is Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

AGREEMENT

Name of School _____

Address _____

City _____, Illinois, _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number: _____

We agree to implement, as a pilot project and in consultation with the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, the *Civic Audit for Illinois High Schools* with the following understandings.

1. The audit will be completed between March and May 2006.
2. The audit will be submitted to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago by June 16, 2006.
3. The teacher team will attend the three-day high school summer institute.

Members of Teacher Team:

Name		Subject/Grade taught
E-mail		
Signature		
Name		Subject/Grade taught
E-mail		
Signature		
Name		Subject/Grade taught
E-mail		
Signature		

Endorsement by School Principal

I agree to enable this/these teacher(s), in consultation with the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, to complete the Civic Audit instrument, provide support (for example, release time), will encourage its successful implementation, and consider with the participating teachers ways in which to enhance civic learning opportunities at [name of school]. I will make myself available to the teachers and to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago as necessary and convenient.

Principal Name	
E-Mail	
Signature	

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Illinois Civic Mission Coalition
 c/o Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
 407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60605
 312-663-9057
schaafsma@crfc.org