



ILLINOIS CIVIC MISSION COALITION CIVIC AUDIT FOR ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOLS

DEMOCRACY SCHOOLS

Illinois Democracy Schools are those that provide students with authentic experiences in the rights, responsibilities, and tensions inherent in living in a constitutional democracy. They are schools which consciously promote civic engagement by all students, which have an intentional focus on fostering participatory citizenship, and which place an emphasis on helping students understand how the fundamental ideals and principles of our democratic society relate to the problems, opportunities and controversies that matter in the present.

Democracy Schools collaborate with parents, students, and their communities in developing a civic mission and in providing curricular and extra-curricular civic learning experiences for students.

Evidence of these characteristics can be found in students' classrooms and formal learning opportunities, in their interactions with school governance structures, and in the opportunities for civic growth provided through service learning and extra-curricular activities.

PURPOSE OF THIS CIVIC AUDIT

The goal of this Civic Audit is not to test the civic knowledge of students, but rather to help Illinois high schools identify opportunities for civic learning. Additionally, this Civic Audit will help Illinois high schools identify where they can better align their curriculum, standards, and extra-curricular opportunities to meet their civic mission.

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