



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago  
*Engaging Youth in Democracy*

CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS



## Illinois Civic Mission Coalition Certification as a 2009 Democracy School

### WHAT IS A DEMOCRACY SCHOOL?

Illinois Democracy Schools are accredited secondary schools that provide students with authentic experiences in the rights, responsibilities, and tensions inherent in living in a constitutional democracy. These schools consciously promote civic engagement by all students, have an intentional focus on fostering participatory citizenship, and 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 all students. They engage their students in a continual process of improving and increasing civic learning.

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.

### CERTIFICATION AS A 2009 DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

Schools interested in being certified as Democracy Schools must complete a two-part process.

#### Step 1

**Conduct a Civic Audit.** The audit can be downloaded at <http://www.crfc.org/pdf/civicaudit07.pdf>. A printed copy of the Civic Audit can be requested from CRFC.

#### Step 2

**Submit the Application for Certification.** The application highlights civic learning in four key curricular areas: discussion of controversial issues; service learning; simulations; and community connections. the Certification includes two parts:

- (1) **Description of Opportunities for Civic Learning.** Applicants must describe working elements in each of the four areas outlined on the application, with a comprehensive program in at least one area, in order to be certified.
- (2) **Evidence for Assessment.** Applicants must provide evidence for their assessment of the status and quality of existing programs.

Certification includes an affirmation of this assessment and planning by three participating teachers, the social studies chair, and the principal.

Completed applications must be submitted by **August 15, 2009**. Applications will be considered and determined by the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition. Notification of certification will be made and announced in September. Certification is made for the years of submission, and all Certification decisions are final. Schools not yet certified may submit a new petition in the following year.

For more information, contact Carolyn Pereira at 312/663-9057x204, [pereira@crfc.org](mailto:pereira@crfc.org).

# Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

## Application for Certification: 2009 Democracy School

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Web Site \_\_\_\_\_

### AFFIRMATION

We affirm that this presentation and assessment of the democracy education activities at our school is correct.

Teacher Team Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Team Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Team Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Studies Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: No application will be considered without this signed Affirmation and Pledge.

Please return this completed application by **August 15, 2009**, to:

**Illinois Civic Mission Coalition**  
c/o **Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago**  
**407 South Dearborn, Suite 1700**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60605-1119**

For more information, contact CRFC at 312/663-9057.

# Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

## Application for Certification: 2009 Democracy School

### 1. DISCUSSION

**Current Status (circle one):**      NONE      DEVELOPING      WORKING      COMPREHENSIVE

**Summary of Current Activities (200 words):**

**Evidence for Assessment (300 words):**

# Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

## Application for Certification: 2009 Democracy School

### 2. SERVICE LEARNING

**Current Status (circle one):**    NONE    DEVELOPING    WORKING    COMPREHENSIVE

**Summary of Current Activities (200 words):**

**Evidence for Assessment (300 words):**

# Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

## Application for Certification: 2009 Democracy School

### 3. SIMULATIONS

**Current Status (circle one):**    NONE    DEVELOPING    WORKING    COMPREHENSIVE

**Summary of Current Activities (200 words):**

**Evidence for Assessment (300 words):**

# Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

## Application for Certification: 2009 Democracy School

### 4. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Current Status (circle one):**    NONE    DEVELOPING    WORKING    COMPREHENSIVE

**Summary of Current Activities (200 words):**

**Evidence for Assessment (300 words):**