



CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Restoring civics education and ensuring that all high school graduates are ready for active, engaged citizenship.

Our Nation is experiencing the consequences of what has often been termed “the quiet crisis in education”: Today, a generation of Americans have had no education in Civics and now have no knowledge of America’s history, America’s Constitution and its principles, and they are uninformed of the origins and strengths of our political system.

Consequently, a generation of Americans do not understand their role as citizens, don’t understand their civic responsibilities, don’t know how to participate in our republic, and don’t understand their critical role in our democratic process and their rights and responsibilities as Citizens.

The **Civics Education Initiative** has worked to raise awareness of this crisis in state legislatures across the nation. In recognition of the threats this

situation poses to our Republic and to securing progress in a democratic society, 31 states have recently enacted changes to their state education laws and policies to begin the critical work of restoring the teaching of civics.

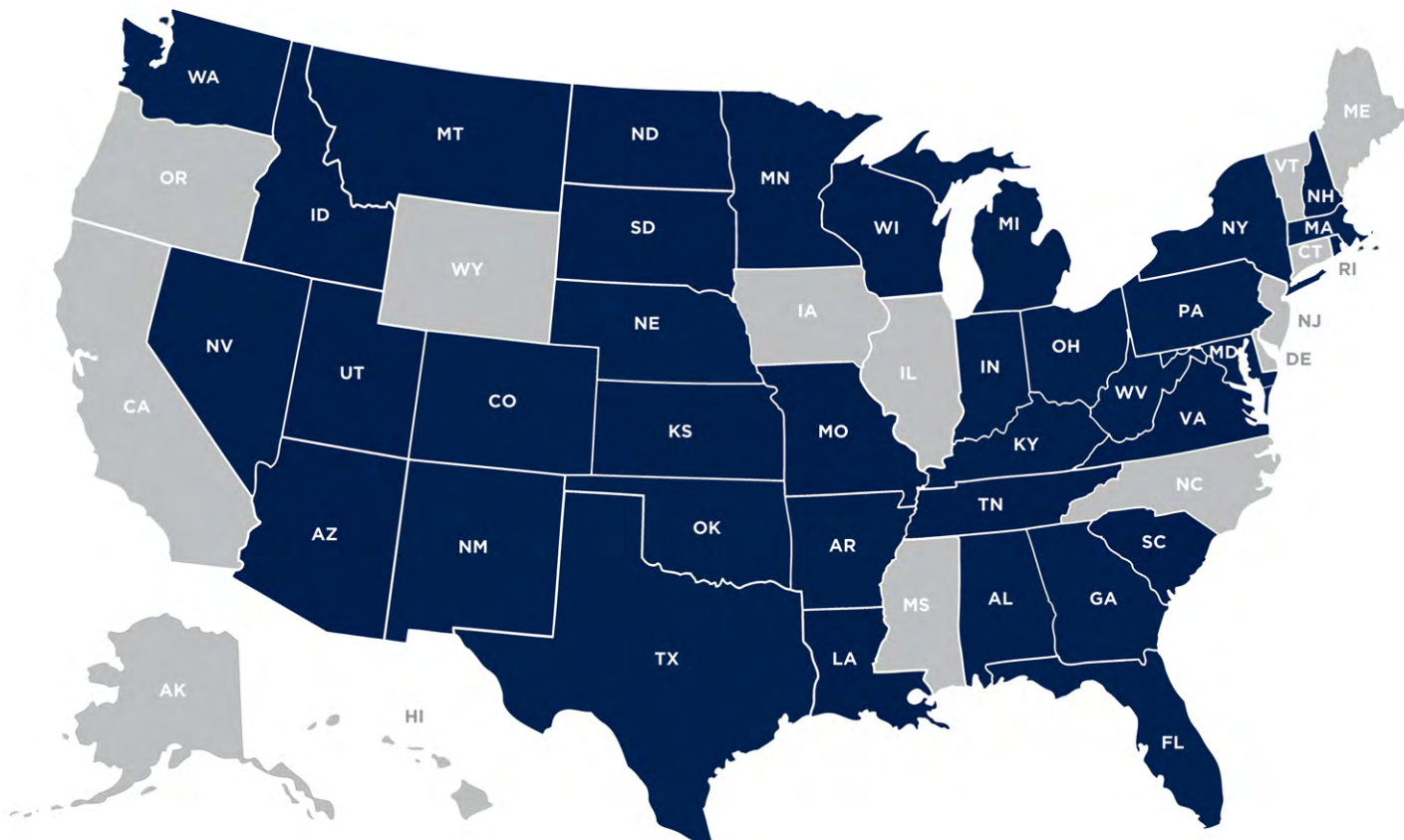
The **Civics Education Initiative** is today engaged in bringing this crisis to the attention of the United States Congress. It is well past time for Congress to recognize and immediately act to offset the undermining and far reaching consequences of this deterioration of our civics knowledge.


It is time for Congress and the Department of Education to support the states who are urgently working to restore civics education and thereby ensure our Republic and our democratic processes remain functionally intact.

“The Quiet Crisis”

- *A recent report by the Education Commission of the States noted “Ample Evidence documents the poor state of American civic literacy. Low levels of student proficiency on the national K-12 student civics test, college graduate survey results and the inability of most adults to identify civics facts suggest that, taken as a whole, the nation’s current civic education efforts are insufficient.”*
- *According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, only 9 percent of 4th grade students can identify a picture of Abraham Lincoln and tell us two things he did that were important.*
- *In 8th grade, just seven percent of students could identify the three branches of government and overall – only 24% of seniors in high schools scored proficient or above on the NAEP civics test.*
- *Studies by the Annenberg Foundation show that a third of U.S. citizens can’t name even one branch of our federal government.*
- *Bottom line, the national achievement gap in reading and math is also present in civics. Across the board, scores were even lower for low-income and minority students, with black students scoring on average, 24 - 30 points lower than their white counterparts.*

The Civics Education Initiative 2019



 Civics proficiency legislation or requirements established as of 2019

Of the now more than 30 states who've established new Civics proficiency requirements, more than half have incorporated the citizenship test into their assessment practices; some use it as a standalone test, while others use parts of the exam, or have added more material to create customized tests. The **Civics Education Initiative** is sponsored by the Civics Proficiency Institute.

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