



**State Board of Education Resolution**  
**Calling for the Establishment of Civic Learning Week in D.C. Schools**  
**SR25-12**

**WHEREAS**, the D.C. State Board of Education (State Board) recognizes the importance of civic education in promoting informed and active citizens;

**WHEREAS**, local civic engagement and an understanding of federal systems are needed to nurture the next generation of leaders in D.C.;

**WHEREAS**, D.C.'s unique status as a federal district without full representation in the United States Congress provides a vital teaching opportunity regarding democracy, representation, and civic responsibility;

**WHEREAS**, the continued efforts toward D.C. statehood and autonomy represent a powerful, real-world context through which students can understand the importance of civic participation and advocacy;

**WHEREAS**, during school year 2024-2025, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) began implementing its revised social studies standards,<sup>1</sup> which includes standards focused on civil discourse and taking informed action;

**WHEREAS**, such standards implementation would benefit from ensuring dedicated time within the school year for students to explore and engage in civic education events and activities;

**WHEREAS**, Civic Learning Week (CLW), a week-long, nationwide initiative hosted by iCivics, highlights the importance of civic education in sustaining and strengthening constitutional democracy in the United States;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, each year, during the second week of March, CLW brings together students, educators, policymakers, and leaders to energize and organize events for civic education across the nation;

**WHEREAS**, CLW events and activities include, but are not limited to:

- Student-led forums and discussions with local politicians and candidates

<sup>1</sup> See <https://osse.dc.gov/page/social-studies-0>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://civiclearningweek.org/about-us/>







- Opportunities for students to shadow politicians or role-play political positions
- Virtual read-aloud programs for younger students
- Webinars and workshops for educators and community members
- Showcases of student projects and civic engagement activities;

**WHEREAS**, D.C. was not included among the 29 CLW 2025 State Ambassadors list,<sup>3</sup> nor were any D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) or public charter schools listed as participating in CLW classroom activities;<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, interest in the establishment of a Civic Learning Week in D.C. has been shared by members of the DC Civics Coalition, as well as public witness Kayla Higgs at the June 18, 2025 D.C. State Board of Education Public Meeting.<sup>5</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State Board, OSSE, DCPS, DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB), students, educators, and local civic organizations<sup>6</sup> should collaborate starting July 1, 2026 to ensure D.C. becomes a 2027 Civic Learning Week (CLW) State Ambassador and has enough time to prepare for 2027 CLW activities;<sup>7</sup>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, such collaboration should include identifying best practices for equitably and strategically implementing CLW activities across diverse schools and classrooms;<sup>8</sup>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that during CLW, DCPS and public charter school social studies teachers should consider building into their lesson plans at least one of the following age-appropriate events and activities:

<sup>3</sup> See <https://civiclearningweek.org/partners/>

<sup>4</sup> See <https://civiclearningweek.org/clw-map/>

<sup>5</sup> Kayla Higgs is the Program Coordinator for Mikva Challenge DC. Her testimony from the June 18, 2025 State Board public meeting is available at [https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fi/dhcnzqojanqpf1823ke0f/SBOE-Testimony-Kayla-H-6\\_18.pdf?rlkey=t5xhcsjvmi910i8chmrp02exl&st=ly9r7na3&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fi/dhcnzqojanqpf1823ke0f/SBOE-Testimony-Kayla-H-6_18.pdf?rlkey=t5xhcsjvmi910i8chmrp02exl&st=ly9r7na3&dl=0)

<sup>6</sup> And student organizations, (e.g., YMCA DC Youth and Government, the D.C. State Board of Education's Student Advisory Committee, etc).

<sup>7</sup> Planning may include identification of pilot schools and/or a full-scale roll out plan for public schools in D.C. for 2027.

<sup>8</sup> Examples provided by Student Advisory Committee (SAC) members at their October 6, 2025 meeting included ensuring educators—especially AP/IB history and civics educators—are unburdened by additional work or pauses to their lessons, avoiding interruptions to students' standardized testing (i.e., SAT testing), making CLW activities both joyful and interesting to students, including activities for out-of-school time programming, integrating CLW activities into other school subjects, inviting DC Public Libraries to participate, creating opportunities for students to visit federal and state government buildings, making resources equitably available so all schools can participate, offering students community service hours for eligible activities, tailoring CLW activities year-by-year to maximize engagement and learning, and gaining educator buy-in when their school participates in CLW activities;







1. Student-led forums and discussions with local politicians and candidates<sup>9</sup>
2. Opportunities for students to shadow politicians or role-play political positions
3. Virtual read-aloud programs (for younger students)
4. Webinars and workshops for educators and community members
5. Showcases of student projects and civic engagement activities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that CLW should be established to ensure that students across all D.C. wards and school types have equal access to meaningful civic learning opportunities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that students and educators should be engaged as co-creators and leaders of Civic Learning Week activities at the school level, including through advisory groups, peer facilitation, and student-led events;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each participating school should have a lead student and educator representative to oversee the implementation of CLW activities while working with the school leader, student body, and participating educators;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each year, an evaluation should be conducted to gather feedback and review the level of implementation and types CLW activities carried out in participating DCPS and public charter schools; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this initiative will intentionally elevate D.C.'s ongoing pursuit of Home Rule, statehood, and self-determination, encouraging students to understand and explore their role in advancing equity, justice, and full democratic participation for all D.C. residents.

Date Adopted: November 5, 2025

Signed: 

*Jacquie Patterson, President*

<sup>9</sup> With steps toward bipartisan engagements with politicians.

