

Civic Learning Initiative

Providing Meaningful Opportunities for Students to Become Active, Informed, and Engaged

The Council on Public Legal Education (CPLE) has launched an ambitious Civic Learning Initiative (CLI) to bolster civic learning for Washington State students.

High quality civic learning is the most important factor in determining whether students will actively participate in their communities as adults. A democracy thrives when its citizens vote, show up for jury duty, engage in public life, join neighborhood groups, are aware of current civic issues, identify and listen to viewpoints other than their own, attend local government meetings, or voice their concerns to lawmakers.

Success for All Students

The Civic Learning Initiative will specifically address gaps in civic learning and determine how the state can be more effective in providing meaningful civic learning for all our Washington youth. It will focus on the policies, resources, and support necessary for success in K-12 schools and youth development programs.

Initiative Goals

- Ensure that all Washington youth have **access** to high quality civics learning both in school and in out-of-school programming — satisfying six proven practices of the Civic Mission of Schools.
- Foster **collaboration** between in-school and out-of-school civic learning educators so that opportunities for training, programs, curricula, and professional development are networked and shared.
- Promote **equity** by prioritizing civic learning opportunities for underserved youth — especially youth of color, immigrants, and refugees, and youth in rural communities.
- Establish local civic learning partnerships.
- Raise public awareness and **support** for civic learning.

Program Elements

- The Civic Learning Initiative kicks off **January 2017** with an initial summit for educators and legislators focusing on identifying civic learning obstacles and solutions to accomplish the goals.
- In **October 2017** we are honored to be joined by Justice Sonia Sotomayor for a second summit showcasing existing high quality civic learning programs.
- The summits will result in increased **collaboration** with the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the creation of a public-private partnership. Also, iCivics – Washington, a state-specific version of the national online **iCivics curriculum**, will be launched.

To learn more about the **Civic Learning Initiative** contact Margaret Fisher, margaret.fisher@courts.wa.gov or 206-501-7963.

INITIATIVE SPONSORS

Barbara Madsen
Chief Justice,
Washington Supreme Court

Ricardo S. Martinez
Chief Judge,
United States District Court
Western District of Washington

Jay Inslee
Governor of Washington

Bob Ferguson
Attorney General

Kim Wyman
Secretary of State

Randy Dorn
Superintendent of Public Instruction

COUNCIL ON PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION CHAIRS

Marlin Appelwick
Judge,
Court of Appeals, Division I

Judith Billings
Former Superintendent
of Public Instruction

INITIATIVE LEAD

Margaret Fisher
State Coordinator,
Sandra Day O'Connor's
iCivics Program

