

Welcome

Thank you for leading the Student Vote program for the 44th Canadian general election. We know the beginning of the school year is a busy time, and we appreciate the time you are dedicating to the program. It's worth it.

The Student Vote program evaluation conducted by Abacus Data in 2019 found that participating in the program had a positive impact on students' knowledge and understanding of government and elections, on their sense of civic responsibility and likelihood to vote in the future.

The program also provides families with opportunities to learn about elections and politics, with students taking their newfound knowledge home and engaging in conversations about the candidates and issues with their family. Where possible, we encourage you to amplify these teachable moments and turn the program into a family affair.

The Student Vote program can also be used to engage students through social and emotional learning strategies (SEL) at a time when students are experiencing stress and significant challenges around their mental and physical well-being as a result of this pandemic. The core competencies of social and emotional learning strategies, according to CASEL, include:

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Social awareness
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision making

The whole experience can foster a sense of belonging by helping students learn about themselves and understand others. This can be achieved through collaborative problem solving, investigating and understanding multiple perspectives, and setting and achieving personal and class goals.

You can model the competencies of SEL in the way in which you deliver lessons and activities, especially in the first few weeks of school. Given that the Student Vote program will be delivered in that time frame, SEL strategies can be leveraged to improve academic achievement and social and emotional well being.

A class contract can be developed to ensure a safe and caring classroom environment, and respectful discussion. A contract can include items like: attentive listening, appreciation/no put downs, mutual respect, and the right to pass.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact our team at hello@civix.ca.

Please be sure to visit the project website for videos, slide decks, digital activity sheets and more:
www.studentvote.ca/canada

Wishing you and your students a great election,

The CIVIX team