

Welcome

Dear Educator,

Thank you for leading the Student Vote program for the municipal and school board elections, happening throughout Ontario this October.

We know the beginning of the school year is a busy time, and we appreciate the time you are dedicating to the program.

The Student Vote program can be used to engage students through social and emotional learning strategies (SEL) to support self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and 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, exploring multiple perspectives, and setting and achieving personal and class goals.

This resource supports the vision and goals of the Ontario Social Studies, History and Geography curriculum, with specific linkages to Grades 5 to 8. The lessons have integrated key pedagogical approaches, such as inquiry-based learning, concepts of thinking, the Citizenship Education Framework and cross-curricular applications, including reading, writing, oral communication and media literacy.

Numerous Student Vote program evaluations have found that participating in the program has a positive impact on students' knowledge and understanding of government and elections, on their sense of civic responsibility and confidence in participating in the electoral process.

The program also provides an opportunity for students to take their newfound knowledge home and engage in conversations about the election with their family.

As part of CIVIX's priorities for the current school year, you will see an emphasis on building constructive dialogue skills among students.

Heightened social tensions, and the erosion of democratic norms around the world, only underscore the need for constructive dialogue skills. Democracy requires bridges between different perspectives.

On the following pages, you will find guiding principles for classroom discussion and activities for co-creating a 'norms of agreement' with students. Developing classroom norms with your students is a great way to ensure a safe and caring classroom environment, and encourage respectful discussion.

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/onmuni2022

Wishing you and your students a great election,

The CIVIX Team