

Red, White & Blue Schools



What is it?

Red, White, and Blue Schools is a civics education program available to all of Connecticut's K-12 schools. It is a collaboration between the State Department of Education and the Office of the Secretary of the State.

Each year, a new theme will be announced and schools are encouraged to incorporate the theme through interdisciplinary activities, whole school events, extracurricular clubs/activities, student centered learning and community outreach.

For 2016, the theme is Teaching the 2016 Election

Examples of Interdisciplinary Projects

- **English/Language Arts:** mock candidate debate, writing and giving speeches, letters to the editor, policy research papers
- **Mathematics:** investigation of polling data; Electoral College analysis and discussion, as well as turnout statistics
- **Science:** Develop issue/white papers on science-related campaign issues (environmental issues, recycling, chemicals in consumer products)
- **Art:** Graphic design (candidate or issue-related ads), create signs and posters for mock elections, candidate forums or other whole-school activities
- **Music:** Patriotic themed performance pieces; examine the use of music in campaigns

Timeline

- End of May/Beginning of June 2016: Press Release/Formal announcement of Program
- June 2016: Summer professional development for teachers
 - One informational program overview webinar that can be archived
 - June and August Connecticut Council for the Social Studies Teacher Professional Development – include a session & materials on the program
- May/June 2016: Everyday Democracy Civic Health Index Event
- August 2016: Superintendents' meeting
- August 2016 – January 2017: Schools work on their election projects
- February/March 2017: Submission Deadline for Projects
- May 2017: School designations & 2017 theme announced

Examples of Activities for Partners

- What is a *community partner*?
 - * A non-profit organization, public agency, and/or government office that provides students with resources, access to materials, and/or support and guidance through the Red, White & Blue process
- Student run candidate forum or debate (in partnership w/the League of Women Voters)
- Student run mock presidential debate



Examples of Activities for Partners

Continued...

- School-wide mock election

Suggested resources:

YLI – <http://youthleadership.net>

National Mock Election – <http://nationalmockelection.org>

Kids Voting – <http://kidsvotingusa.org>

Newsela Vote 2016 - <https://newsela.com/calendar/>

- School-wide voting simulation with mock voter registration and polling places
- Voter education efforts
- Voter registration drive, in partnership with local Registrar of Voters.
- Student created voter education website (see: <http://voterguide.ml>)

Examples of Out of School Activities

Webinars, candidate forums, voter registration campaign, volunteering for a campaign, poll worker training, and/or checkers or tabulator tenders

- Election focused literacy integration in ELA and reading classes:

Election related elementary books:

- *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin
- *E is for Election Day* by Gloria Gavis
- *Grace for President* by Kelly S. DiPucchio
- *How Do We Elect Our Leaders?* (My American Government Series) by William Thomas
- *My Teacher for President* by Kay Winters
- *Vote* by Philip Steele
- *Vote!* by Eileen Christelow
- *Voting (True Books: Civics)* by Sarah DeCapua



Qualification Criteria:

What does it mean to be a Red, White & Blue School?

- Slightly different criteria for K-5 & 6-12
- For further details, please refer to the K-5 & 6-12 rubrics that were provided to you.

Criteria	K-5	6-12
Social studies and/or social studies & language arts integrated instruction	40%	25%
Cooperation with school & community partners	10%	10%
Interdisciplinary & whole school participation	20%	20%
Examine the electoral process, issues & candidates' views on the issues and their impact on daily life	10%	25%
Utilization of various forms of media & outreach to communicate projects	15%	10%
Inclusion of extracurricular or out of school activities	5%	10%

What we need from you

- Partner with your local school
- Share details of the program with your mailing lists, through your newsletter, with your email subscribers and at community events.
- Add your logo to the Red, White & Blue Schools website and share the Red, White and Blue Schools logo on your site.
- Help defray minor costs including school recognitions and the 2016 concluding event

Learn more about the program by visiting our website!



Thank you for your participation!

For more information, visit our website
or contact:

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