ACTION CIVICS THEORY OF CHANGE¹

Marginalization of youth voice
The civic empowerment gap

Program Partners (i.e. teachers, youth workers) trained by Mikva Challenge staff

Action Civics Framework: Youth Voice, Youth Expertise, Collective Action and Reflection

Students engaged in Action Civics Process (examine community, research issue, build constituency, strategize, take action, reflection (presentation))

CIVIC AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
- Shifts in institutional, organizational, and school culture (youth given more opportunities to positively engage)
- Shifts in stereotypes about youth
- Improved pedagogy and classroom climates
- Changes in policy, budgets, and physical environment

ACTIVE AND INFORMED CITIZEN
- Increased knowledge of civics (school, community, policy, political process)
- Increased commitment (in values and action) to electoral, community and civic engagement
- Increased ability to enact change alone and with others (civic efficacy)
- Developed civic identity

YOUTH CIVIC CREATION
- Youth create reports and digital media that circulate widely
- Media includes youth stories and point of view
- Youth facilitate community events
- Youth engage in philanthropy

21ST CENTURY POSITIVE YOUTH LEADER
- Increased skills in collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and professionalism
- Increased sense of agency

YOUTH CIVIC PARTICIPATION
- Youth consistently meeting with decision-makers on key issues
- Youth engaged in on-going education and advocacy campaigns
- Youth testify in public forums

ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL STUDENT
- Improved grades, graduation rate, attendance, academic skills
- Increased school engagement and connectedness
- Increased college enrollment and graduation

Broad incorporation of youth voice
Transformed, strengthened democracy

¹Developed in collaboration with partner agencies in the National Action Civics Collaborative and with Harvard researcher Jessica Gingold.