

# Democracy is a verb.

**Mikva  
Challenge**

[mikvachallenge.org](http://mikvachallenge.org)

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## Mikva Challenge

provides schools and school districts with strategies and tools to engage young people in high quality, student-centered, project-based learning about the democratic process.

**“The opportunity to participate in experiential and service learning is one of the best ways for students to build essential civic skills and gain important civic knowledge. Research has shown that students who have the opportunity of participating in programs like the Mikva Challenge develop a commitment for life-long, informed civic engagement.”** — Ted McConnell, Civic Mission of Schools

### Our Action Civics curricula and programs:

- Develop social and emotional skills, critical thinking, communication and collaboration
- Improve school culture and community
- Enhance teacher effectiveness through inquiry-driven, project-based learning
- Create authentic opportunities for engaging in democracy
- Connect classrooms to the larger community and allow students the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills

**“I feel like Mikva changes the way kids approach problems. They approach it from a standpoint of ‘how can I solve this?’ instead of ‘why is everybody out to get me?’** —Mikva Teacher

# Mikva Challenge can support your learning goals

Mikva Challenge offers three pathways for engagement with schools and school districts around the country:

## 1.

### Action Civics curricula

Mikva's suite of curricula is aligned with CCSS and C3 standards, addresses Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) standards, is project-based, and focuses on developing equitable learning environments

**“What I say and do makes a difference.”** — Mikva Challenge student

### Curriculum

#### Creating Democratic Classrooms

Create a positive and inclusive learning environment where students where leadership and community are practiced regularly.

#### Project Soapbox 2020

Students learn how to speak up on an issue they care about.

#### Issues to Action 2020

Mikva's six-step process that teaches students how to take informed community action.

#### Elections in Action 2020

Students explore campaigns and the electoral process with a focus on getting involved.

#### Student Voice Committees: A How To Guide

Students learn how to create an empowered youth governance body with a focus on school policy.

## 2.

### Action Civics professional learning

Mikva Challenge professional learning provides the framework and practices to help faculty and staff build a culture that values youth voice and promotes community, civic dialogue and engagement. Workshops can be tailored to meet the needs of a school or district.

Popular workshops include:

- Creating Democratic Classrooms
- Action Civics as a Tool for Equity
- Amplifying Youth Voice
- Taking Informed Action
- Engaging Youth in Elections
- News Literacy and Civic Action
- Youth Voice and Governance in Schools

**“I have developed so many activities and projects that are student-centered because of the curriculum and professional development.”** — Mikva Teacher

**“Mikva helped me bring passion to the classroom.”** — Mikva Teacher

## 3.

### Action Civics Model Site partnerships

Mikva Challenge partners with school districts around the country to develop and improve their youth civic engagement strategies. These districts become models for Action Civics.

Multi-year partnerships receive the following key supports from Mikva:

- Site licenses to Mikva's full suite of curricula
- Customized local professional development
- Attendance to Mikva's annual Action Civics Summer Institute
- Training and certification of Action Civics Lead Teachers to lead the work locally
- Development and implementation of youth showcase events
- A community engagement plan to engage neighborhood leaders, elected officials and parents

**Every student should have an opportunity to participate in Mikva Challenge programs.”** — District Administrator