



UTAH CIVIC LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

HB 273

Civics Education Amendments (Rep. Dan Johnson)

SUMMARY

This bill creates the **Local Innovations Civic Education Pilot Program** to support innovative, evidence-based approaches to civic teaching and learning. What works in one community may not work in another: but school districts (LEAs) and schools can be compared on standard measures of youth preparedness for civic life. The point is to learn what works and provide a structure and process for LEAs and schools to learn from each other.

MEASURING OUTCOMES

HB 273 specifies that innovations must be *evidence informed*: this means that outcomes will be evaluated by an independent evaluator. Participating school districts can specify outcomes unique to their project, however, to facilitate apples-to-apples comparison, grantees will also track outcomes using the NAEP civics assessment framework or a similar measure.

THE OVERALL GOAL

The idea is to test the effectiveness of different approaches to preparing youth for civic life and identify institutional barriers to innovation in civic teaching and learning. Participating school districts and schools will have latitude to innovate, but a baseline of measures will be tracked across all the grantees. Participants will also be part of learning community of grantees that will be open to all interested LEAs and educators.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will this work?

LEAs or schools from different geographic areas and with a range of student population sizes and demographics can apply for grant funding to undertake a new initiative or take an already proven approach to scale.

What approach qualifies?

To qualify for funding, an initiative must be aligned with one or more state civic learning standards and grounded in proven practices, including:

- promoting responsibility for preserving the blessings of liberty secured by the Constitution
- building confidence in democratic foundations
- building civic skills and dispositions
- teaching media literacy and digital citizenship
- promoting informed participation in civic life through academic service learning

Why this approach?

Civics education looks very different from one LEA to another. One LEA may want to go deep on media literacy and digital citizenship; another might want their students to graduate with a deeply ingrained understanding of the Constitution.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

HB 273 came out as a top priority for the HCR 15 Workgroup and in a recent Utah Civic Learning Collaborative stakeholder survey.