

EDUCATING FOR AMERICAN ★ DEMOCRACY

STAKEHOLDER BRIEF FOR SCHOOL AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

This brief is meant for administrators in K–12 schools or districts whose positions involve history and civics.

WHAT IS EDUCATING FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY?

Educating for American Democracy is a cross-ideological effort to create a roadmap for civic education for the 21st century. It offers guidance on how to:

- ▶ **Address** tensions and controversies in history and civic education
- ▶ **Make** diversity, equity, and inclusion integral to civic and history education (not checklists to add onto curricula)
- ▶ **Integrate** history with civics across the K-12 span
- ▶ **Identify** high-priority themes and thus simplify requirements
- ▶ **Develop** graduates who can and will engage in constitutional democracy

WHAT EAD IS NOT

EAD is neither a curriculum nor standards, though it can inform both. EAD is not about simply adding another thing to the overflowing plate of a state, a district, a school, or an educator. It is about changing the plate, and, in the process, considering how students' experiences in K–12 education not only prepare them for college and career success, but civic success as well.

SHIFTS TO SUPPORT EAD'S SUCCESS

CATEGORY	STATUS QUO	SUPPORTING EAD SHIFTS
Educational Investment and Focus	Underinvestment and persistent decline in social studies	Reinvestment in the social studies and integration of civic skills across disciplines
Approach to Teaching	Focus primarily on teacher-directed transmission of isolated facts	Shift to inquiry-based learning that promotes active learning and student agency
Approach to Teachers	Light on training, support, collaboration, and recognition	Heavy on training, support, collaboration, and recognition



VISIT
www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org
to download a copy of the Roadmap.

For more specific information about what you can do, click on "Take Action," and look for the stakeholder brief that best matches your role. For comments or questions, please contact us at EAD@iCivics.org.

ACTIONS FOR SUCCESS

What types of actions can support students, educators, and schools in your district in order to make the most of EAD?

EAD is not a simple, short-term one-and-done initiative, but a long-term effort and movement to ensure that public education lives up to its civic mission. Priorities and needs vary by district, depending on the state's standards and policies, existing programs in your schools, conditions in the community, and other factors. You may find the following questions useful as a starting point. Every school and district will have strengths to build on and areas for growth.

ACTION CATEGORY

QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Visioning

To what extent is the civic mission of education already incorporated in your existing mission statements, policies, and requirements? **Could** you create a civic learning plan compatible with the *EAD Roadmap*? **What** would enable that or make it difficult? **What** new initiatives will need to be developed and under what timeline?

Resourcing

How does staffing, funding, and support for preservice education for civic and history education compare to other disciplines in your school?

Curriculum

How well do the history and civics curricula you use align with the *EAD Roadmap*? **Would** you be able to improve the alignment? **What** would impede that effort?

Recruitment and Professional Development

How well are your teachers and school administrators prepared to teach history and civics? **How** would you assess their content knowledge, interest, and pedagogy? **What** needs most attention, and how would you address those gaps?

Assessment

To what extent do you already assess civics and American history? **Is** that assessment driven by state mandates and tests? **What** would it take to assess the outcomes envisioned in the *EAD Roadmap*?

Partnerships

Outside of the schools, who can help to improve civic and history education? **Do** you have supportive relationships with higher education, museums and cultural institutions, city government, local newspapers, the judiciary, and other civic stakeholders?



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