

# EDUCATING FOR AMERICAN ★ DEMOCRACY

## STAKEHOLDER BRIEF FOR STUDENTS

This brief is meant for students in K–12 public, private, charter, and parochial schools. If you are currently a student, this brief is meant to encourage your commitment to the type of learning reflected in the *EAD Roadmap*.

### WHAT IS EAD FOR STUDENTS?

**EAD** is a new approach to learning about history and civics in an integrated way.

Instead of listing everything you should know, this approach centers around in-depth questions with the aim to equitably prepare you for civic participation. As a student, EAD represents a paradigm shift from “Do you know this?” to “Can you do a good job of exploring and addressing this contested question?”

### WHAT IS IT NOT?

**EAD is not a textbook or a bunch of lesson plans.** It’s also not state standards, although we hope your state will consult the *EAD Roadmap* when revising its standards. By the way, state standards are what public school students are expected to learn in each grade. They are set by your state legislature.

### ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

**As a student, you are first and foremost a member of your community. Your education should provide access and opportunities to learn about the painful challenges and exceptional achievements of our country. You deserve rich and relevant learning opportunities across your K–12 education that address the complex stories and systems comprising U.S. history and civics.**

To that effect, we are seeking your commitment to more robust learning experiences that is, learning experiences that promote deep-thinking about our nation’s history, our political systems, and the tensions that have always surrounded them. This, we believe, is essential to the health of our constitutional democracy. That’s why we’re working with folks at all levels—you, your peers, your teachers, your administrators, and even your school district leadership and community—to ensure that all students are provided opportunities to grasp the full and diverse narratives of American life and institutions, past and present, in order to develop into a generation of resilient, caring, and informed citizens who will actively participate in and sustain democratic governance in the United States.



VISIT  
[www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org](http://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](mailto:EAD@iCivics.org).

## A CASE FOR HISTORY AND CIVIC EDUCATION

When talking to peers, teachers, or school leaders, you may consider making these points, which are presented and justified in greater detail in the *Roadmap*:

- ▶ **Strengthening** history and civic education is a strategy for preserving and improving America’s constitutional democracy and for addressing specific deficits in our public life, such as hyper-partisanship and false information.
- ▶ **History** and civic education have been badly neglected.
- ▶ **Despite** deep disagreements in our society as a whole, the *EAD Roadmap* demonstrates that a consensus exists about the core topics and issues to study in history and civics. That consensus includes an agreement about the deep and worthy disagreements that young Americans should understand and learn to navigate.
- ▶ **All young people** deserve an excellent education in history and civics and a curriculum that resonates with their own backgrounds and experiences.

**In addition to your advocacy, the long-term success of EAD requires you to continue doing what you do best—taking responsibility for your learning and developing your agency.**

## OWNING YOUR LEARNING

You can deepen your engagement with our constitutional democracy by learning how to exercise and understand civil rights and responsibilities, address real-world issues that matter to your community, and keep up with current events.

Additionally, practice interacting with people who may disagree with your perspective. This skill will strengthen your ability to engage in rigorous conversations and debates. Finally, be sure to engage in democratic practices within your school as well as within your community. Participating in school governance, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities will increase your experience and familiarity with issues that are vital to your community.



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