UTAH CIVIC LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



JUNE 16, 2022

MEETING SLIDES

Today's AGENDA

- Welcome/Introduction of New Participants
- HB 273 Local Innovations Grant: Brainstorm ways to promote & PARTNER
- Fresh Angles for #2 above:
 - UCLC Listening Tours and Outreach to Promising Practitioners
 - UVU's recent study
- UCLC Next Steps:
 - Workgroup Structure for 2022: Proposed Changes based on programmatic priorities for this year
 - Intro to closed Facebook group
 - Diversifying the UCLC: Recruiting/engaging rural & ethnic diversity
- Approach to Civics Secures Democracy Act
- Update on Core Standards for Social Studies K-6 & Announcements

HB 273 *Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program*

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

- Supports innovative, evidence-based approaches to civic teaching and learning
- LEAs or schools from urban, suburban, and rural Utah can submit proposals to undertake a new initiative or take a proven approach to scale.

Read it & apply HERE: https://docs.google.com /document/d/1kLllgM4V ufyqHdbW69 dtlRxEqbN MXI522z-jBtkmVQ/edit

Grant Priorities

Aligned with **CORE STANDARDS**

Based on at least 2 PROVEN PRACTICES

Constitutional Literacy: build confidence in American institutions; develop informed civic skills

Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship: including positive ways to participate in civic life online

Academic Service Learning: and Informed Participation in Civic Life, including simulations

Are evidence-informed: include a process for assessing outcomes & measuring results

Additional Considerations

PROOF OF CONCEPT or traction is helpful

Geared for **SUSTAINABILITY**

LEAs (& of course schools) are welcome to **COLLABORATE**

Proposals should come from a variety of geographic areas

...should represent students with DIVERSE SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS

Uses of funds

Develop or purchase curriculum content

Professional Development & planning for teachers & administrators

Implement academic service learning programs

Informed civic learning experiences for students

Stipends for teachers to set aside time for projects & project planning

General Takeaways from Listening Tours for HB273 Many "SPARKS" of innovation going on now in your schools!

HB 273 brings \$1.5 million to take those to **SCALE**

There are **NEW IDEAS** (ex: design a comprehensive Academic Service Learning Program in partnership with local nonprofits).

Teachers want help facilitating discussions about current events and sensitive topics

Whatever you do, should ALIGN WITH CORE STANDARDS.

Looking for a VARIETY OF APPROACHES in this 1st year especially

TOPLINES

CONSTITUTIONAL (+ democratic processes) LITERACY ETC. ✓ strong dedication to teaching constitution, foundations, civic processes; many teachers are leaning on the foundations in response to current controversies re-CRT, teaching about race, and nervousness about addressing controversial topics.

✓ Teachers also leaning in to teaching HISTORY, learning from models of good civic action in the past (ex. from Alpine: Billy Mills, Native American from Pine Ridge who won gold at 1964 Tokyo Olympics, used his notoriety for civic good).

✓ Teachers want PD facilitating civil dialogue about sensitive topics.

Feedback

Constitutional Literacy & Knowledge of Democratic Processes Utah Studies classes talk about the constitution and introduce some of the topics included in our state constitution.

"People teach history as a collection of facts. Important to teach history as a series of decisions that were made. Becomes more powerful. And relevant this way."

"Important to explain basics of government and teach kids how to listen to each other."

...the extreme division in politics has reached into the classroom in so many ways and are making things challenging!

Once you talk with the parents, they're fine, so open communication goes a long way. Most people tend to get upset over misunderstandings. Still, there's still that fear that you will meet the parents who just won't ever listen.

I'm told that I should teach "both sides of the story," but how does one teach the other side of the story when discussing genocide, or gender inequality in Africa and the Middle East? FEEDBACK

Civic Skill Building for Informed Engagement "Many don't know what role they can play...People don't participate in things they know nothing about.

"(A special ed student) felt passionate about (about an issue). but had no idea where to start. I told him you have a voice. He still felt nervous. I saw an opportunity to show students they have knowledge and experience that are important.?

Students really enjoyed creating infographics for issues they care about! This got students who struggled to read and write engaged, too.

TOPLINES

MEDIA LITERACY (+ COUNTERING MISINFORMATION)

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Toplines:

- ✓ Lots of resources out there for teaching this, but need to curate better (teachers drinking from a firehose)
- ✓ Digital citizenship is about more than digital safety: since so much civic engagement happens in digital spaces, need to focus on positive digital engagement, including DOING GOOD ONLINE

Feedback

MEDIA LITERACY DIGITAL CITZENSHIP ETC

We use NetSmarts. The problem I see is students are so focused on TODAY that they don't really see the future. It helped students to see that before I was hired, my principal did a complete search of me online! The lesson here is whatever they're doing online today will be with them when they apply to college or try to get a job

"News literacy is not just through (conventional) news. When I asked my students where they get their news, 80% said through TikTok! Teachers need to know how to teach media literacy across these platforms!

We need to get more sophisticated about how we teach about gameification: how they get a Dopamine hit when they get a 'like.' If THEY'RE not paying for the product, they ARE the product. We need to teach these algorithms, pull back that curtain.

Once you talk with the parents, they're fine, so open communication goes a long way. Most people tend to get upset over misunderstandings. Still, there's still that fear that you will meet the parents who just won't ever listen.

Sparks to take to scale?

I have recently switched to a projectbased approach to geography where students work on natural disaster planning, for example. We did an election scavenger hunt. With inaugural address: did Bingo cards with topics with topics that could possibly be addressed. This got students more engaged. Want to do this with state and local elections also. Connections to relevant real world challenges such as pollution are being discussed in my geography course. Student activity: Research Utah legislative bills and discuss and evaluate their potential effectiveness. Students also suggest their own pollution bill.

In geography, I worked in a unit on dictators because my students were curious about Russia and its invasion of Ukraine, and I also make sure to look at China and North Korea to show students the rights that they have that people in other countries don't have.

We had our mayor and city council come and visit and teach them about how to send ideas in for new laws and projects around the city.

Academic Service Learning

We need resources and connections to service opportunities in our community.

Simulations programs cover many essential civic skills!

Toplines:

Feedback

ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING SIMULATIONS PROGRAMS

We the People teaches research skills, community engagement, service orientation, backing claims with facts - writing and speaking argumentative and persuasive skills.

Students are able to practice and participate in civics by running a youth court. They hear minor violations and decide on a disposition that must be completed. They have 2-4 students from our school in 9th grade only participate. They get .25 credits towards graduation.

I am trying to learn what resources we can use for online so I am still searching for resources that would work for <u>online</u>.

Once you talk with the parents, they're fine, so open communication goes a long way. Most people tend to get upset over misunderstandings. Still, there's still that fear that you will meet the parents who just won't ever listen. Ideas for Other Innovative Approaches Why limit to social studies?

Math teacher: almost every secondary math course has stats. Teach bias in stats. Show that can manipulate stats.

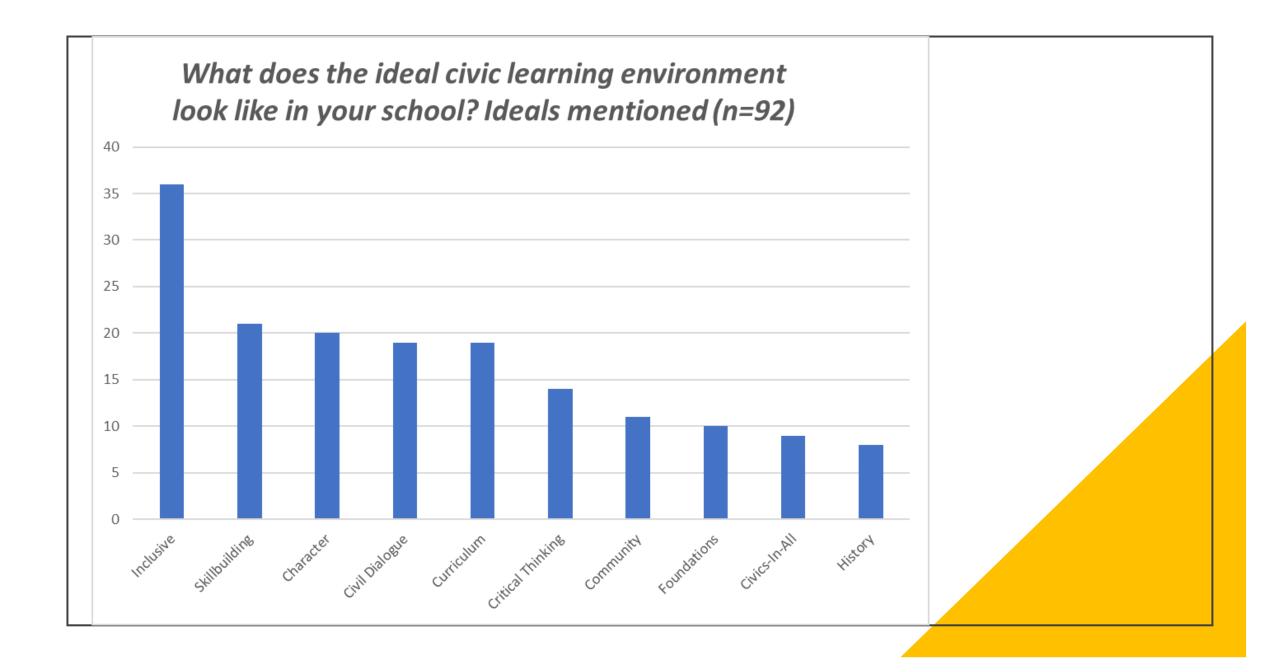
Gerrymandering lessons are fun to do in a math class. Very eye opening!

I am creating discussions, assignments for language arts reading/writing that include civics and geography. I use maps, the globe, newsela, and class discussions to help students gain a better understanding of government, leadership, etc.

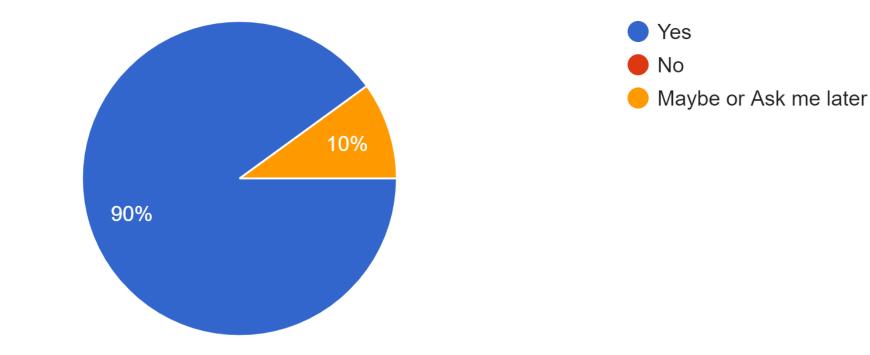
Other Relevant Feedback

It feels like I am playing catch up and don't have the time to spend that it deserves. There is honestly a fear that you will say something and it will be taken out of context or misinterpreted by a student. Unengaged, non-participating kids might hear something and say something out of context and then it blows up at home.

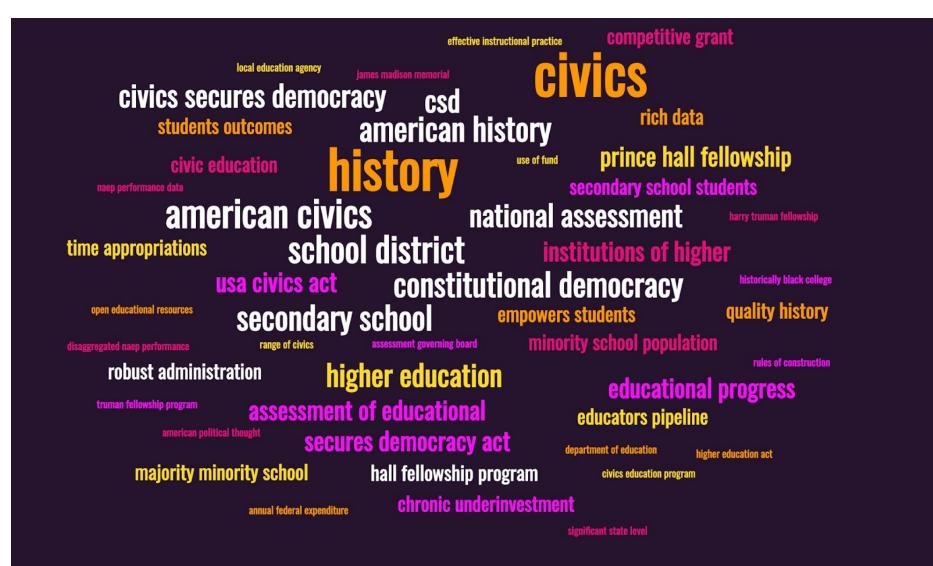
A learning network of teachers and schools supporting service learning would be helpful. I would have loved to have group discussions in my classroom, but because of covid, we could not have large groups or guest speakers come into the classroom.



Would you find it helpful to participate in peer-to-peer learning or learning networks with fellow teachers with similar objectives in civic teaching ...x: a group of educators focused on media literacy)?



World Cloud Summary of Civics Secures Democracy Act



Q & A

DISCUSSION



