

In this report, “Education Leaders” includes The University of Alaska (UnivAK), the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development (BOE), the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED), the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA), Principals, Schools, Teachers, Parent-Teacher Organizations, Student Organizations, Community and Service Organizations, and School-Business Partnerships.

TFCE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Education Leaders should organize an “Alaska Civics Summit” event to bring together educators, education professionals, students, and civics advocacies, for the purpose of sharing innovations and methods for improving civics curriculum resources, classroom tools, networking and civics engagement. This event should include components such as:
 - a. Forums, Presentations, Seminars, Workshops, Webinars, Courses, Classes, Competitions, Awards and Ceremonies;
 - b. Should be funded in creative ways as organized by Education Leaders; and
 - c. Be held over a period of 2-14 days annually; and
 - d. Include a report summarizing the highlights of the Summit to the Legislature

2. Education Leaders should immediately launch a statewide effort to examine and adopt improved content standards, including specifically those for government and citizenship, and corresponding grade level expectations for such standards.
 - a. These standards should include a specific reference to the content of the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services under 8 U.S.C. 1446(b). and
 - b. Have detailed emphasis on, but not be limited to, the history and values of the United States, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Rule of Law, Citizenship, and Civic Duty.
3. Education Leaders should vet civics curriculum options and ensure such curriculum is easily shared and equally accessible among educators in Alaska, so as to have ample educational tools available for meeting state standards in civics.
4. Education Leaders should partner with existing non-profit service organizations that offer programs or best practices in civics education and civics engagement, such as those described in this report, to improve communication, awareness, accessibility, and delivery of such programs;

5. Education Leaders should recognize the professional skills of and honor teachers who demonstrate outstanding leadership and effectiveness in delivering and promoting civics education and civics engagement in Alaska.
6. Education Leaders should develop a system of portfolios, endorsements or commendations for inclusion on student transcripts, report cards, or diplomas, recognizing and honoring students who have excelled in civics education or civics engagement during their secondary educational career.
7. Education leaders should partner to consider establishing new, or modifying existing, programs in Alaska that would qualify as a “Presidential Academy,” a “Congressional Academy,” as defined by ESSA, summer camps, a “School of Democracy,” or other endeavors to qualify for “Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants” available through ESSA, or other funding sources and programs promoting civics education and engagement.

8. Education Leaders and the Office of the Lt. Governor (LTGOV) should partner to identify and assign a person or persons to be responsible for the development and maintenance of a statewide clearinghouse or repository of civics education-related resources and curricula, to fulfill the following needs:
- a. to increase awareness of current civics classroom resources and programs to educators;
 - b. serve as a liaison for connecting civics or service organizations to educators;
 - c. monitor and warehouse modern best practices in civics education and civics engagement programs;
 - d. make current civics curriculum resources freely and easily accessible to educators and researchers throughout Alaska via the internet or other means;
 - e. identify and connect educators with opportunities for professional teacher training and development in civics education and civics engagement programs;
 - f. identify, foster, or secure funding sources for supporting civics education, curricula, programs, or training opportunities for educators and students; and
 - g. play a leading role in the fulfillment of the recommendations contained in this report, and other findings as may arise, for the overall improvement of civics education delivery and engagement in Alaska.

9. To the extent practical and appropriate, Boards and Commissions both at the state and local, as well as Boards of Directors for non-profit or service or community organizations, should include in their bylaws or formal structures a seat to be filled by a student representative, or form respective student advisory committees for students to participate in the respective Board, Commission, or Organizations' policy making process.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THIS REPORT:

- 10 The Legislature should establish a fund called the “Civics Education & Engagement Fund,” (CEEF) comprised of monies received from federal, state, or other sources, for the purpose of supporting civics education and civics engagement in the state;
11. Initially capitalize and annually appropriate to the CEEF funds equal to 0.1% of the total amount appropriated as state aid to public schools as described in AS 14.17;
12. Money appropriated to the CEEF should be expended:
 - a. In a manner consistent with supporting the statewide coordination and maintenance of a civics education clearinghouse or repository; and
 - b. disbursed in an equitably proportionate manner consistent with school districts’ defined basic need for public school funding, as calculated in AS 14.17, for the express purpose of promoting civics classroom education and student-community engagement.
13. Education Leaders should partner with non-profit and service organizations, such as the Rasmuson Foundation or the Alaska Humanities Forum, to identify and secure federal funding relating but not limited to grants that may be available through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), or other sources.