

# Project Civic Connections

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**A Partnership Between**

**The  
Constitutional  
Rights  
Foundation**



**The Maryland  
Student  
Service  
Alliance**



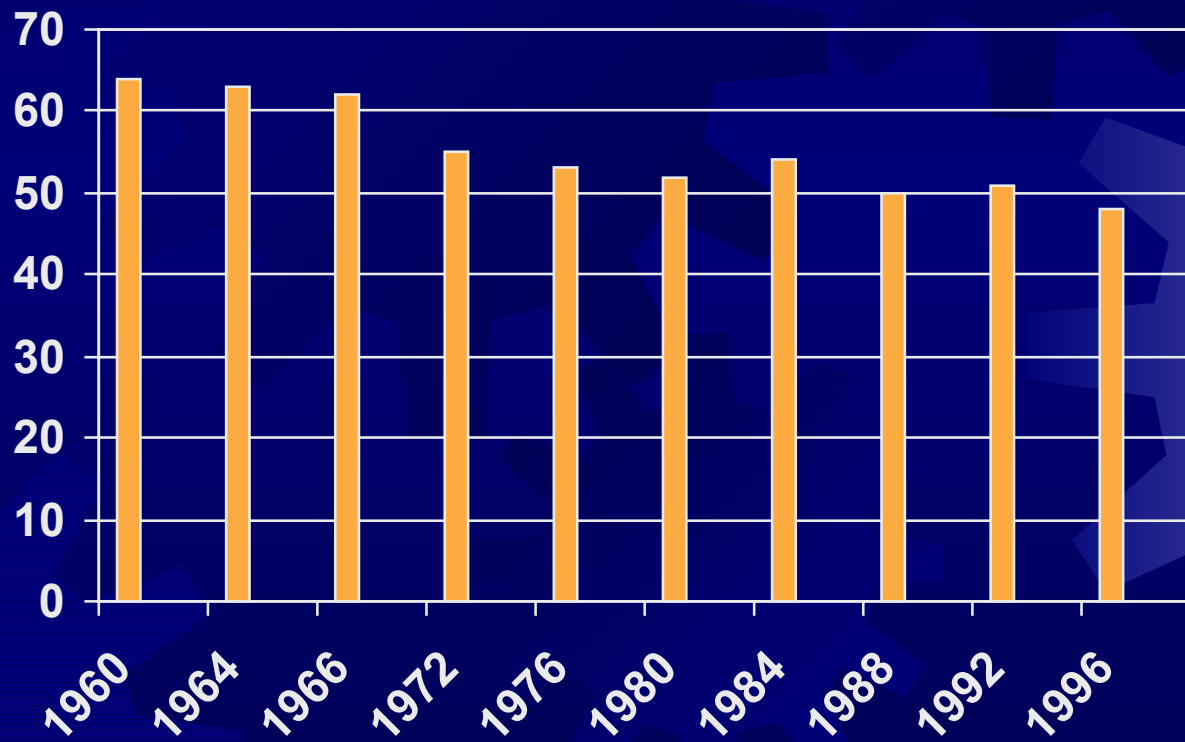
**The Howard  
County Public  
School  
System**



# Why Citizenship or Civics Education?

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## Voter Turn-out in Presidential Elections 1960-1996



# Why Citizenship or Civics Education?

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- ★ **Voter apathy**
- ★ **Distrust of government institutions**
- ★ **Young people aren't convinced that politics and/or government makes a difference in their lives**
- ★ **Young people aren't convinced that they can make a difference.**

# The 1998 NAEP Civics Test

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**Test Results indicate a need for civics education.**



**While 81% of students identified Martin Luther King as someone who was concerned about the injustice of segregation laws....**



**...only 6% were able to describe two ways that countries benefit from having a constitution.**

# The 1998 NAEP Civics Test

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**While 90% of twelfth graders tested knew that Social Security was an issue important to senior citizens...**



**... only 9% could state two ways that individuals could participate in and effect positive change in government.**

# ***What is Service Learning?***

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**Service Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning.**

# How can Service Learning help?

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- ★ **Service-Learning connects students with their community, making them aware of the issues and problems in their surroundings.**
- ★ **Service-Learning can help young people link volunteering and service to political and civic life.**
- ★ **Service-Learning boosts knowledge of civic affairs and encourages greater participation.**
- ★ **Service-Learning effectively demonstrates the benefits of involvement. Students see real results to real actions on their part.**

# What type of citizen do we want?

	Personally Responsible Citizen	Participatory Citizen	Justice Oriented Citizen
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acts responsibly in the community</li> <li>Works and pays taxes.</li> <li>Obeys laws</li> <li>Recycles, gives blood</li> <li>Volunteers to give a hand in a crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active member of community organization</li> <li>Organizes community efforts</li> <li>Knows how government agencies work</li> <li>Knows strategies for accomplishing collective tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically assesses beyond structures to see beyond surface causes</li> <li>Seeks out and addresses areas of injustice</li> <li>Knows about social movements &amp; how to effect systemic change</li> </ul>
<b>Sample Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes to a food drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helps organize a food drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explores why people are hungry and acts to solve root causes</li> </ul>
<b>Core Assumptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must have good character; they must be honest, responsible, law abiding members of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must actively participate and take leadership positions within the established systems and community structures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To solve social problems and improve society, citizens must question and change established systems and structures when they reproduce patterns of injustice over time.</li> </ul>



# What are the seven best practices of Service Learning?

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- ★ **Meet a recognized need in the community**
- ★ **Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning**
- ★ **Reflect throughout the service-learning experience**
- ★ **Develop student responsibility**
- ★ **Establish community partnerships**
- ★ **Plan ahead for service-learning**
- ★ **Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service**



# Howard County Mission Statement

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- ★ **Develop and implement curriculum and assessments which are relevant and challenging.**
- ★ **Create an environment in which students, staff, families, and community members participate and contribute.**
- ★ **Ensure that diversity and commonality are valued.**
- ★ **Provide a safe, nurturing, and academically stimulating learning environment.**



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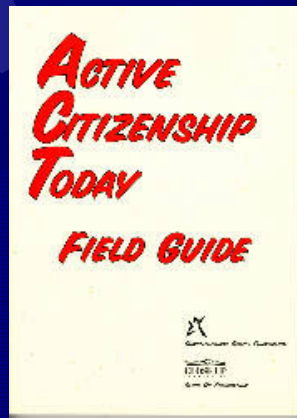
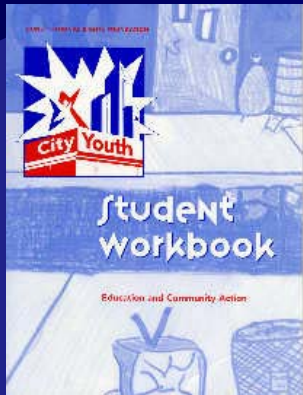


## What are our goals?

- ★ To develop quality service learning projects for teachers and students
  - ★ To allow teachers and students build connections with their communities through service
  - ★ To link service learning curricula to Maryland Learning Outcomes and Maryland Content Standards
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# Project Civic Connections

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★ To train teachers in the Constitutional Rights Foundation curricular material, *City Youth*, and *Active Citizenship Today (ACT)*.

★ To equip teachers with *City Youth*, and *Active Citizenship Today (ACT)* curricular materials.

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