

## **The 3 C's: Add "Citizenship" to the IPS "Education for Career and College" mission so the district meets its civic responsibility to prepare students for self-government**

The global research below shows that when/where students have a sense they are regarded and listen to and thus are consulted regarding school-related decisions, school climate improves: academics, attendance, behavior, relationships, grad rates, etc. See [Research supporting improved school climate and academic outcomes when students are involved in school-related decision-making](#).

What's really powerful is that there is no research, **none**, showing that when the voices of students are not just respected but validated through responsible school and classroom shared decision-making actions, school climate gets worse. This means, in most cases, it is the school's adults who disregard the all-over value of student participation to school climate.

### **Education for Citizenship: USA**

To get students involved in school and community-related decision-making, politics, and voting, analyze [Common Sense: Explaining low voter turnout](#).

### **Education for Citizenship: UK**

Let's look at what England is doing to engage elementary and high school students in schools and the classrooms via school councils: <https://www.schoolcouncils.org/>.

Also, unpack the British study titled: [The Link between Student Participation in School Decisions and Academic Attainment](#).

### **Education for Citizenship: Australia**

Here's info on what the Australians have been doing with students for years. Read issues of [Connect](#). Since 1979, the world-recognized *Connect* is an independent bi-monthly publication supporting active student participation in primary and secondary schools.

*Connect* covers areas and practices that are variously called "student voice," "student agency" and "student participation." It supports educational change and development through assisting students and teachers to document and share practices in which students have substantial decision-making and implementation roles in primary and secondary schools, around real and important issues.

"Mayor Hogsett's charter students deserve democratic schools." ~ John Harris Loflin

We must remove the contradictions in our culture that embrace democratic ends for its schools, but resists the actual practice in schools of democratic means from which the ends cannot be separated.

~ The Institute for Democracy in Education

Schools must provide students chances to study and do democracy inside and outside the classroom

- Schools are a common experience of virtually all young people.
- Schools have a moral obligation to introduce students to the democratic way of life.
  - Such a life is learned by experience.
  - It is not a status to be attained only after other things are learned.
- Democracy extends to all people, including the young.
- Democracy is neither cumbersome nor dangerous. To the extent it works in society, it can work in schools.  
~ "Common Sense: Explaining low voter turnout," John Harris Loflin

"Adults, why do you fear children's participation?"

~ The Concerned for Working Children, 2003 Annual Report

### **Proposed Action Item: IPS becomes a Career, College and Citizenship oriented district**

We need to treat students like citizens now, not citizens in the future.

~ Supt. Sheldon Berman, Hudson Public Schools

AACI will initiate a study committee to reason with IPS to add “Citizenship” to the outcomes of “College and Career readiness” in order to fulfill the district’s civic responsibility to prepare students for self-government. The study committee will work closely with the Civic Literacy initiative of Indy NAACP, Urban League, the Center for Civic Literacy, League of Women Voters, and Indiana Citizen on how to prepare students for the practice of critical citizenship while in school.

### **Education for Citizenship: Example**

Let’s look at Education for citizenship from a global perspective

Here’s a major study by the UK Parliament:

- <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmeduski/147/14705.htm>
- In doing so, the study committee will consider these questions:
  - How can we make each traditional public school a democracy?
  - What can students do to help run their school?
  - How can our traditional schools promote classroom morning meetings and bi-monthly whole school meetings?

“Surely it is an obligation of education in a democracy to empower the young to become members of the public, to participate, and play articulate roles in the public space.” ~ Maxine Greene