

## Student-led Civics Project Reporting Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions

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### What are the state's requirements for reporting data related to student-led civics projects?

[Chapter 296 of 2018, Section 4\(c\)](#), of *An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement* requires all students in grade 8 to be provided with a civics project. The law similarly has a requirement that students must be provided with a second civics project *at some point* during grades 9-12. For each student in grade 8 and in high school, districts will need to report in SIMS whether they were provided with a civics project.

These projects are often, although not always, provided through history or civics classes. If you are unsure about which students have been provided with a civics project, school or district instructional leaders with responsibility for history/social science may be able to help provide this information.

### How do I report data related to student-led civics projects in SIMS?

Under the heading "student was provided a civics project" in SIMS, the reporting codes for SIMS are as follows:

- **500 Does not apply to student:** This should be used for all students in grades PK-7, for whom the civics project requirement does not apply.
- **00 Student has not been provided a civics project:** This should be used for students in grades 8 through 12 who have not been provided with a civics project in the current school year.
- **01 Student has been provided a civics project:** This should be used for students who have been provided a civics project in the current school year aligned with the six stages of civic action as described in the [Civics Project Guidebook](#). *Note that students do not need to demonstrate any specific level of competency on the project in order to be given this designation.*

### Should students be marked as "yes" (01) if they were provided a project in a previous school year?

Students should only be marked "yes" (01) in the year(s) they were provided a project. If a student was marked "yes" (01) in a prior year but was not provided a project in the current year, they would be marked "no" (00) in the current year. Data is not cumulative from year to year.

### Is it OK that not all students in grades 9-12 will be marked "yes" every year?

Yes. The requirement is that schools provide all students with a civics project once in eighth grade and at one grade level in high school. As long as high schools are providing the project at one grade level (9-12),

they are meeting the requirement and will likely only have *some* students marked as “yes” (01) each year depending on the course(s) in which students are provided a project.

### What should schools report in SIMS submissions before the end of the year (e.g., the 10/1 submission)?

Students may be provided projects at different times throughout the year, even within the same school/district. Until a student has been provided with a student-led civics projects in the current school year, schools should report “no” (00) for that student. Once they have been provided with the project in the current year, schools should report “yes” (01). Any student marked “yes” (01) at the end of the current year would then be marked “no” (01) at the beginning of the next year until/if they are provided the project again.

### What should schools report for students who transfer in or out of the district during the school year?

For students who transfer in or out during the school year, schools should report whether a student was provided a project while they were enrolled in the reporting school/district.

### Which students are required to be provided with the project?

DESE’s expectation is that all students, including students with disabilities, should be provided access to the general curriculum which includes the curriculum frameworks as well as the civics project. Every student brings to civics projects distinct assets and opportunities for growth, and those facilitating projects have a responsibility to ensure that all students are meaningfully included in and have access to projects with appropriate scaffolding and differentiation. For additional information and resources related to this question, consider reviewing the [Civics Project Guidebook](#) “Considerations for Meaningful Inclusion” section.

### Is completion of the civics project required for graduation?

No, completion of a civics project is not required for graduation. The law requires schools to provide students with a project both once in grade 8 and once in high school.

### What happens if schools report that some or all students were not provided a student-led civics project?

At this point, the Department is gathering this data in order to best target our support and to compile a required legislative reporting. Currently, there is no specific accountability measure.

## What resources exist if we need additional support implementing the projects?

Consider the following resources for additional support in planning and implementation projects:

- [Civics Project Guidebook](#)
- [Civics Projects Quick Reference Guide](#)
- 2020 Civics Literacy Conference: [Event Program](#) and [Workshop Materials](#)