

Massachusetts Civics Project Showcases: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the dates and locations of the 2025 Massachusetts Civics Project Showcases?

In 2024, DESE hosted three regional Showcases in Bridgewater, Worcester, and Amherst. Exact dates and locations for the 2025 Showcases will be announced in fall 2024. The Showcases will occur late May-early June 2025.

2. How do districts/schools register for the Showcases?

Registration will open in January 2025. Exact deadlines will be announced in fall 2024. **Students from any district may attend any regional Showcase.**

There are two options for registration:

- **Registering as a district:** Districts that anticipate bringing students from multiple schools to a Showcase may register with a district-wide contact to coordinate transportation and the selection of student participants.
- **Registering as an individual school:** If only one school is attending from a district, there is only one school in your district, or if district-level coordination is not possible in your setting, schools may register as an individual school with a school-based contact.

Districts/schools can register for students to participate within the 8th grade division, high school, or both. Due to limited space, districts/schools will receive confirmation of the number of project teams they can bring following registration. Exact names of students participating are not due until shortly before the Showcase events.

3. Is there funding available for transportation?

There will be a priority deadline to apply for transportation reimbursement.

4. Who can participate in the Civics Project Showcases?

All 8th-12th grade public school students in Massachusetts are eligible to participate in the Civics Project Showcases. Students must be completing a student-led civics project as part of their classwork. **Students from any district may attend any regional Showcase.**

5. How many students can participate from each school/district?

Districts (or schools registering individually) should refer to the following chart to determine the number of project teams (1-4 students each) they will likely be able to bring. DESE may reach

out to contacts for more information to make final determinations and will confirm the number of project teams allocated to each district following registration.

Number of students district-wide in a given grade level (e.g. 8th grade):	Estimated number of project teams (1-4 students each) your district may bring to the Showcase at that grade level:
Under 300 students	Two project teams
301-500 students	Three project teams
501-700 students	Four project teams
700+ students	Five project teams

6. How are students selected to participate in the Civics Project Showcases?

Participating districts/schools will determine their own process for selecting students to participate in a Civics Project Showcase. Most districts host a school-wide or district-wide showcase in May and select students to participate based on their performance in these local events. DESE will share resources throughout the semester to support districts interested in hosting local showcases.

7. What will the Civics Project Showcases be like? What is the schedule for the day?

We recommend watching this [video](#) from last year for a sense of what the events will be like. In short, it’s like a science fair for civics! During the event, community advisors will circulate and have short, structured conversations with students about their projects. Community advisors are local legislators, subject matter experts, educators and others who are interested in learning about student work and sharing their feedback. In addition, this year, we will have a section of the day devoted to students sharing their projects with each other.

Each event will last from approximately **9:30am-1pm**. Lunch will be provided for all students and chaperones.

8. Is there a rubric that community advisors will use during the event? Can this rubric be used in the classroom?

Community advisors will use the rubric posted on the [DESE website](#) to guide their feedback during the event. Teachers are welcome to adapt this document for classroom use and/or use it during local showcase events.

9. What feedback and/or recognition will students receive for their work?

In the week following the event, chaperones will receive a compilation of written feedback for their students from community advisors. This feedback is not a “grade,” but rather will focus on



the strengths of student work, areas of improvement, and ideas for students to consider as they move forward with their projects.

Community advisors will also have an opportunity to nominate student projects for “commendations” based on areas of excellence in student projects. Students will receive notice of these commendations along with the written feedback. There will not be an awards ceremony on the day of the event.

10. I have a question that wasn’t answered. How can I get additional information?

For additional questions, please reach out to Rebekah Judson at Rebekah.m.judson@mass.gov.