

**Statement to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service
Regarding Commission Staff Recommendations on Civic Education
From the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools
July 1, 2019**

It was a privilege and an honor to testify before the Commission last October, alongside Dr. Emma Humphries of Justice O'Connor's iCivics Program. I thank the Commission for that opportunity and for the Commission's concern and interest in civic education.

As I suspect you have heard from many in the national civic learning community, we are very supportive of the recommendations in the "Commission Staff Memorandum: Civic Education."

The proposed recommendations for State and Local Education Agencies are meaningful, thoughtful and would help improve the teaching of civics in every school, for all school populations in the nation.

We are delighted by and strongly support the proposed recommendations at the Federal level. There is a demonstrated need for dramatically increased Federal funding to ensure innovation and equity in civic learning (the traditional role of the Federal sector in education). Ensuring disaggregated data is provided from the National Assessments of Educational Progress (NAEPs) in Civics would ensure state and local policymakers have the data they need to assess the adequacy of their approach to civic education. Both the national award and recognition program and the institutional home within the US Department of Education would be very useful and helpful developments for civics.

Our only suggested change to the Staff Recommendations would be to **ensure the eligibility of not-for-profits (alongside State and Local Education Agencies) in any Federal level competitive grant program.** For the past two decades, innovation in civic education has come from the non-profit civic education programming community. Entities such as iCivics, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the Constitutional Sources Project, the Mikva Challenge and many others have led the way in new teaching strategies, the use of digital media and all manner of innovation, which makes the subject come live and much more interesting to the student. Funding is needed to support this on-going innovation and improvement in the teaching of civics.

On behalf of the national civic learning community, I thank the Commission and its very talented staff for not forgetting civic education and for considering such important and useful policy recommendations. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the "Staff Memorandum: Civic Education."

Respectfully submitted,

Ted McConnell

Executive Director, Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

civicsted@gmail.com