



The LegiSchool Project

Fall 2021

Calendar of Events

October 20

Virtual Town Hall Meeting:
Housing the Unhoused

December 8

Virtual Town Hall Meeting:
Pitfalls of Social Media

January 26

Essay Contest Digital Deadline:
The Importance of Digital Citizenship

February 16

Virtual Town Hall Meeting:
Ethnic Studies Curriculum in CA

March 16

Legislative Summit

March 19

Short Form Video Contest Deadline:
PoliTik Toks

April 20

Virtual Town Hall Meeting:
Climate Change and the Future of CA

May 27

Photo Contest Deadline

June 6

Application deadline for the
LegiSchool Civics Institute

Welcome to LegiSchool!

On behalf of LegiSchool, welcome to the 2021 - 2022 school year. This year, many of us are pivoting back to in-person events and getting back inside the classroom. It's an exciting time for many! We want to send heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2021! We applaud your perseverance and strength, and admire your persistence throughout the past year and a half of online learning. LegiSchool also wants to acknowledge the superheroes in education: our teachers! Thank you to all of our teachers for adapting to new situations, creating new lesson plans, learning new technologies and continuing to stay committed to student success.

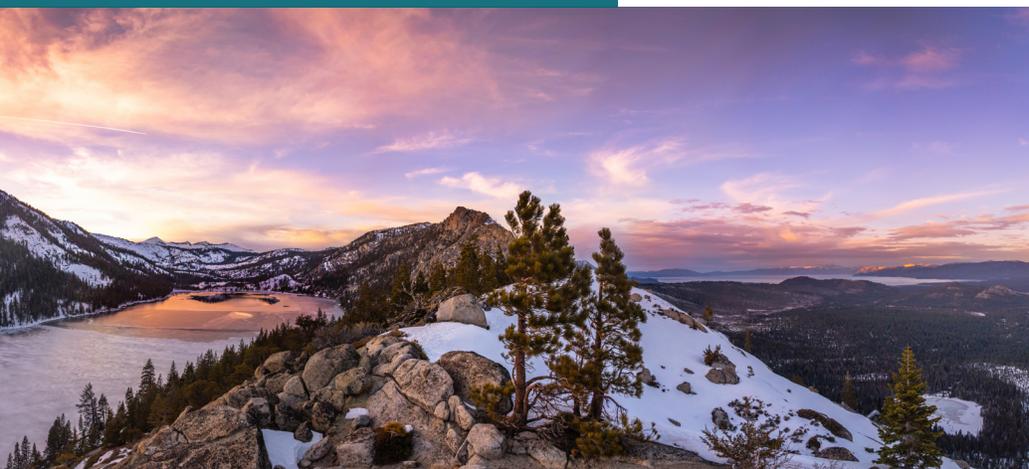
New for the 2021 – 2022 school year, LegiSchool is introducing a brand new video contest: "PoliTik Toks", where students can submit short creative videos that highlight important California policies. We will also continue to offer our virtual, student-moderated Town Hall meetings. We hope that students and teachers in California are able to take part in all of our learning opportunities that we have to offer this year. Keep reading to find out how you can get your school involved.

This upcoming school year, we will tackle the issues that students want to talk about, such as the effects of social media on mental health. In addition, we will continue to host our annual contests: the essay contest and the photo contest. Students participating in the essay contest will be asked to share their thoughts on the importance of digital citizenship.

In the summer, LegiSchool once again hosts the LegiSchool Civics Institute, a paid summer program. During LegiSchool's internship, participating students will have a chance to learn about the three branches of government, work on their professional skills and engage in thoughtful discussions through policy assignments, speaker series and more.

Through our virtual town halls, contests and summer program, LegiSchool hopes to illustrate how government is relevant to young people, and encourage the next generation's commitment to civic life. To learn more about LegiSchool opportunities, read on! **Visit our website to learn more!**

Photo credit: Marcus Slack, South Tahoe High School





2021-22 Virtual Town Hall Meetings

Housing the Unhoused **October 20, 2021**

In January 2020, there were 567,715 people that were experiencing homelessness in the United States. 151,278 of those individuals live in California, making up 20% of the homeless population. California is top 5 in the nation for having the highest rates of homelessness and accounts for one-third of all homeless youth in the nation. How can California assist people living in homelessness? What community programs have shown the most success? Are tiny homes a possible solution? How can urban planning help combat homelessness?

Pitfalls of Social Media **December 8, 2021**

Today, around 72% of Americans use some form of social media. The pandemic caused the number of social media users to skyrocket and the numbers continue to climb. How has social media affected the way people perceive their own lives? What is the relationship between politics and social media? What are effective solutions to growing mental health illnesses among youth?

Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum in California **February 16, 2022**

In March 2021, the California State Board of Education approved guidance to assist high schools in developing ethnic studies courses. The Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum aims to highlight the contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Latin Americans and Asian Americans in California. How do these changes affect students in high school and beyond? What kind of changes can high schools begin to see? Why is California the first one in the nation offer a statewide ethnic studies model?

Climate Change and the Future of California **April 20, 2022**

The state has recently experienced record-high temperatures and the numbers are expected to increase each year. In order to move away from climate change-causing fossil fuels, Governor Gavin Newsome issued an executive order requiring sales of all new vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035. Transportation is responsible for over half of California's pollution. How will this change impact our daily lives? In what ways can we inform more communities about climate change?

Interested in attending a Virtual Town Hall Meeting?
Send an email to legischool@csus.edu

CONTEST CORNER

SHORT FORM VIDEO CONTEST "PoliTik Toks"

For the first time ever, LegiSchool will host a short-form video contest! Bring awareness to an important California policy issue by creating a short-form video to inform others! Students can get creative by using comedy skits, dances, and more. Students can upload their 30-seconds-or-less video as a TikTok, Instagram Reel or YouTube Short. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners. Complete details available in January.

DEADLINE: MARCH 19, 2022

ESSAY CONTEST The Importance of Digital Citizenship

As the internet continues to evolve and grow, kids are getting exposed to the digital world at an earlier age. Many resources are available for students to make smart choices both online and offline and to take ownership over the content they post. Why is Digital Citizenship so important today? How can more students protect themselves and their private information online? In what ways can more students learn about the safe use of online information and resources?

All current 11th and 12th graders are invited to submit their essay response to our annual LegiSchool Essay Contest! Selected winners will be chosen to participate in the Legislative Summit where they will be able to share their thoughts and ideas with policymakers.

Complete details will be available in October.

DEADLINE: January 26, 2022

VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT: March 16, 2022



PHOTO CONTEST

Join students from around the state and participate in our most popular contest! Step behind the camera lens and capture a quintessential California picture to show us how you envision this state. Let us see California through your eyes and you can win a cash prize! Complete details available Spring 2022.

DEADLINE: MAY 27, 2022

Visit our website for contest details and submission requirements

Stay up to date!



Keep informed on all the LegiSchool happenings by following our blog. The blog provides background information and an insider's glimpse of all of our civic education opportunities.

Experience what our contests, Town Halls, and internship are like by catching our latest blog post.

Photo Credit: Annelise Balentine, Palo Alto High School (Left)
Maximilian Rabbit-Tomita, Palo Alto High School (Top Right)

LEGISCHOOL CIVICS INSTITUTE

The LegiSchool Civics Institute gives a select number of California high school students the opportunity to participate in an intensive 4-week program that explores important policy issues in California and provides students the tools to develop leadership and professional skills.

Students will learn what it's like to work in state government by having experts in the field participate in Q&A sessions, lead debates and discussions, and provide mentorship to interns. Students will also work on research projects, policy papers and participate in a variety of professional development workshops. Experts in Sac State's career center will demonstrate effective resume building skills, give interview tips and show students how to network.

A stipend and a certificate of completion from the California State Legislature will be provided to the student upon completion of the summer program. The internship is open to all junior and senior high school students. The LegiSchool Civics Virtual Institute is a summer internship program and is not a Sacramento State college course.

Complete details available Spring 2022.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 6, 2022

Mission

The LegiSchool Project is a civic education collaboration between Sacramento State and the California State Legislature, administered by the Center for California Studies.

The Project's mission is to engage California's high school students in matters of public policy and state government by creating opportunities for students and state leaders to meet and share ideas on issues affecting Californians. In doing so, we hope to motivate young people to take an interest in the public life around them and to encourage their active participation in our political process.

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STATE

