



The LegiSchool Project

Fall 2024

Calendar of Events

October 18, 2024

Town Hall Meeting:
Voting in California

December 13, 2024

Town Hall Meeting:
Health & Government

January 31, 2025

Essay Contest Deadline:
Youth Activism in CA

February 21, 2025

Town Hall Meeting:
Technology and AI

April 25, 2025

Town Hall Meeting:
Environmental Issues

May 31, 2025

Video Contest Deadline

June 6, 2025

Summer Internship Deadline:
LegiSchool Civics Institute

Welcome to LegiSchool!

On behalf of LegiSchool, welcome to the 2024 – 2025 school year. A massive congratulations to all students who graduated this year and a huge thank you to all of the teachers, counselors, parents, principals and staff who guided them! This upcoming year, LegiSchool is excited to introduce our new curriculum for high school teachers in California! With our curriculum, teachers can follow the Youth Participatory Action Research model while meeting California Common Core State Standards, C3 Framework State Standards, Social Justice Standards, and more!

“For Students, By Students” has been our motto, and it will continue to ring true for this upcoming school year. All of our events will be hosted in the Sacramento area and be moderated by high school students, and we hope that students and teachers in California will be able to participate in our exciting learning opportunities! Is your class or school interested in coming to Sacramento to participate in a town hall meeting but is in need of a bus? Contact us and see how LegiSchool can cover all of your classroom’s transportation costs!

For 2024 - 2025, we will discuss topics that students want to talk about such as health issues in California, technology & AI, environmental justice and more. In addition, we will host two contests this year: the essay contest and a short form media contest. Contests are a great way to get involved with LegiSchool from any city!

This summer, LegiSchool once again hosts the LegiSchool Civics Virtual Institute. Through LegiSchool’s virtual internship, participating students will have a chance to learn about the three branches of government, work on their professional skills and engage in a variety of thoughtful discussions through assignments and webinars, all from home.

Through our 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.

- Rotce Hernandez, Director

Visit csus.edu/legischool to learn more!





2024 - 2025 Town Hall Meetings

Voting in California **October 18, 2024 @ Sacramento**

Join us as we discuss the significance of voting in California, emphasizing the crucial role young people play in shaping the future of their communities. We will explore the importance of civic engagement, particularly among high school students, and how their participation in the election process can lead to meaningful change. Students will learn about the voting process, hear from experts, and be encouraged to take an active role in democracy to ensure their voices are heard.

Health & Government **December 13, 2024 @ Sacramento**

What is the role of government when it comes to health policies in California? This event will address critical health issues in California, with a focus on how they impact youth across the state. Students and panelists will cover a wide range of topics, including women's health, mental health issues among teens, health disparities among people of color and more. Explore the pivotal role of state government in shaping health outcomes, from creating and implementing policies to ensuring access to quality care for all Californians.

Technology & AI **February 21, 2024 @ Sacramento**

Is technology growing too quickly? Technology advancements have a significant impact in our society as a whole, especially for our younger generation. What is the role of state government in technology? How can we ensure that innovation is balanced with ethical considerations, privacy protections, and equitable access? Join us as we tackle hard questions and gain insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid technology and how we can shape a future where technology serves the public good while safeguarding the rights and well-being of all people.

Environmental Issues **April 25, 2024 @ Sacramento**

In celebration of Earth Week, this town hall will focus on significant environmental issues in California, highlighting the critical need for sustainable practices and policies. Students will cover important topics such as climate change, animal conservation, sustainability, renewable energy, pollution and more. We will discuss the role of youth in leading environmental advocacy and how they can participate in creating a more sustainable and greener future.

Contact us at legischool@csus.edu to have YOUR class attend!

**Get connected to curriculum, transportation assistance,
student leadership roles, State Capitol tours, and more!**

CONTEST CORNER



ESSAY CONTEST Youth Voting in California

In the United States, you must be at least 18 years old to vote in state and federal elections. However, children and teenagers under 18 are significantly impacted by laws and policies shaped by elected officials, even though they don't have the right to vote for those leaders. In the 1970s, the legal voting age was lowered from 21 to 18, partly because young men could be drafted into the U.S.-Vietnam War at 18. Many felt it was only fair to give them a voice in decisions that could affect their lives so directly. Do you think the voting age should be lowered again? Why or why not? If so, at what age should children or teenagers be able to vote?

All high school students 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 on a roundtrip visit to Sacramento.

Deadline: January 31, 2025

VIDEO CONTEST

NO PARKING FIRE LANE

Join students from across the state and participate in our newest contest! Whether through ASMR, skits, dances, memes, fancams, lip-sycing or funny edits, show us how creative you can be when discussing the political process!

DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2025

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.

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

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. This program is 100% remote.

Students will learn about each of the three branches of government with an emphasis on public service and the political process. Activities include: discussions with experts to learn more about state agencies, the judicial branch, California policy and politics, as well as attend online professional workshops.

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 sophomore, junior and senior high school students. The LegiSchool Civics Virtual Institute is a summer internship program and is not a Sacramento State college course.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 6, 2025

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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