On behalf of LegiSchool, welcome to the 2022 - 2023 school year. This year, LegiSchool begins to transition to more in-person events and explore new social media contests! Congratulations to all of the students who graduated this year and a huge thank you to all of the teachers, principals and staff who helped make it happen! We applaud your perseverance and strength, and admire your persistence. 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.

Continuing with our “For Students, By Students” motto, students will be the moderators and emcees for all of our Town Hall events during the 2022–2023 school year! As we pivot to more in-person Town Halls, we will have a hybrid schedule this year and offer our Town Hall meetings both online and in-person. Do you know of a student that would enjoy an opportunity to emcee one of our Town Hall Meetings in-person or virtually? Contact us and see how you can get your school and classroom involved!

This upcoming school year, we will tackle the issues that students want to talk about, such as environmental justice and mental health issues. 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 voting in California.

This summer, LegiSchool once again hosts the LegiSchool Civics Virtual institute, a paid summer program. 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 thoughtful discussions through assignments and webinars.

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
2022-23 Virtual Town Hall Meetings

Voting in California
October 14, 2022

Historically, the voter turnout in California has been at a low record of 25.17% and in the California 2022 Primary voter participation was as low as 18%. How can we encourage more community members, such as our young voters, to go out and vote and in addition, help them to understand that their vote matters? Since many high school students haven’t reached voting age, what how can young folk who are under the age of 18 be civically involved and make a difference in their community?

Your Mental Health
December 9, 2022

Mental health is one of the most serious challenges that the state of California faces considering that nearly 1 in 6 Californians experience some type of mental health issue and 1 in 24 have serious issues. The California Judicial Branch has luckily created opportunities for felons with Mental Health issues by creating programs such as the collaborative court. However, many Californians still face the struggles, and the government continues to brainstorm solutions to the mental health crisis in California. Would youth mental health problems be helpful in this situation? How can we ensure that all people have access to mental health services no matter

Social Inequities in California
February 27, 2023

During the pandemic, Californians faced more financial hardship than ever before. Companies and brands continue to increase the cost of staple items and health care costs continue to soar, making it very difficult for families to manage their expenses. The gap between low-income and high-income families is among the largest in the nation and the pandemic only widened income inequality among Californians, affecting the Black and Latino community at elevated levels. How can we reduce income inequality in California? Why are some communities affected so disproportionately?

Environmental Justice
April 21, 2023

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. In what ways can communities stay informed about important environmental policies in California? What specific environmental issues are youth more involved in and why?

Interested in attending a Town Hall Meeting?
Send an email to legischool@csus.edu
ESSAY CONTEST
Youth Activism in California

Even though most high school kids in California are not of voting age, many teens are involved civically in their high schools, neighborhood and beyond. How do you, as a high school student, get involved with government and activism? Do you run a government club? Do you film political videos or record podcasts? Are you a part of youth board or student council? LegiSchool wants to hear from YOU and all of the ways that young people get involved in their communities!

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.

DEADLINE: July 31, 2023

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!

Visit our website to submit!

DEADLINE: MAY 26, 2023

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

Please visit csus.edu/legischool for more information.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 7, 2023