



# The LegiSchool Project

Fall 2023

## Calendar of Events

**October 20**

Town Hall Meeting:  
Mental Health, Teens and  
Social Services

**December 15**

Town Hall Meeting:  
Social Justice Issues in California

**January 26**

Essay Contest Digital Deadline:  
Youth Activism in California

**February 16**

Town Hall Meeting:  
Technology, Privacy and  
Social Media

**April 26**

Town Hall Meeting:  
Climate Change and  
Environmental Justice

**May 31**

Video Contest Deadline

**June 7**

Application deadline for the  
LegiSchool Civics Institute

## Welcome to LegiSchool!

On behalf of LegiSchool, welcome to the 2023 – 2024 school year. A huge congratulations to all of the students who graduated this year and a huge thank you to all of the teachers, counselors, parents, principals and staff who helped make it happen! This year, LegiSchool is excited to introduce more in-person events that will help teens feel more confident in the political process and motivate students to be more engaged in their communities and in the law making process.

Continuing with our “For Students, By Students” motto, current high school students will be the moderators and emcees for all of our Town Hall events during the 2023 – 2024 school year! All of our Town Halls this year are back to in-person and we hope that students and teachers in California are able to participate in our exciting learning opportunities! Do you know of a student that would enjoy an opportunity to emcee one of our Town Hall Meetings? Is your class interested in coming to Sacramento but in need of transportation? Contact us and see how you can get your school and classroom involved, as well as have LegiSchool cover all of your classroom’s transportation costs!

This upcoming school year, we will discuss topics that students want to talk about such as climate change and mental health issues in teens. In addition, we will continue to host annual contests: the essay contest and the new PoliTok short form media contest.

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!





# 2023-24 Virtual Town Hall Meetings

## **Mental Health, Teens and Social Services** **October 20, 2023**

Mental Health consists of our emotional, psychological, and social well being. It affects all aspects of our life and affects how we live our lives daily. Whether it be how we act, feel, think, handle stress, connect with others, or make decisions, the state of our mental healthy greatly impacts our quality of life. Social service workers specialize in helping individuals and families cope with everyday life, but what about the services offered to younger kids and teens? These vital services help people find stability by providing necessities like shelter, healthcare and stability in their lives. The government plays a very important role in regulating systems and providing resources that protect all citizens. What services do teens need the most? How can we ensure that teens are provided with the services that they need? What can we do help support young people's quality of life?

## **Social Justice Issues in California** **December 15, 2023**

Social justice is defined as the fair treatment of all people in a society, including respect for the rights of minorities and equitable distribution of resources among members of a community. In this event we wil focus on ensuring a greater social equity, fair housing for all and fighting gender gaps in California. Join us as we discuss a variety of social justice issues such as the importance of diversity traning in work settings, dual language education in children, low-rent housing options, improved rehabilitation options for people in need and current parental leave policies.

## **Technology, Privacy and Social Media** **February 16, 2024**

Social Media is present in all of our lives and we are exposed to technology every single day. With so much our personal information being stored in the virtual cloud, how can we ensure that our in-identity and confidential information stays secure? With the rise of artificial intelligence, the authenticity of art, movies, photos, news, publications, and student homework is increasingly questioned. How can we ensure that there are proper regulations put in place for artificial intelligence? How can government place limitaions on social media companies if needed?

## **Climate Change and Environmental Justice** **April 26, 2024**

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, humans have increased global warming and it is negatively affecting the quality of life and adversely affecting our Earth's condition. This change in climate has caused certain communities to be more exposed to harmful environmental practices. Environmental Justice is the social movement that aims to bring equity to all societies and communities that experience environmental injustice due to poor conditions caused by irresponsible disposing of harmful wastes, resource extraction, and other dangerous environmental factors. How can our communities do our part? How is government regulating the presence of toxic chemicals?



# CONTEST CORNER



## 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.

Complete details will be available this fall.

**DEADLINE: January 26, 2024**

## 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! Complete details available Spring 2024.

**DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2024**

**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](mailto: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.

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.

Complete details available Spring 2024.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 7, 2024**

## 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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