

Civics education is currently at the forefront of the national dialogue with 17 states requiring high school students to take the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) citizenship test. Do you think you could pass the citizenship exam that is required for those seeking citizenship in the United States? According to a survey conducted by *Newsweek*, 38% of Americans failed the exam!

Citizenship Counts is a pre-eminent, national 501 (c)(3) organization that was established in 2008 with the mission to inspire pride in America and teach today's youth to be leaders of tomorrow. Our comprehensive educational initiative includes lessons and educational materials that meet the six proven practices in civic learning. According to a study by the College of Civic Life at Tufts University that was released in September 2017, a significant improvement and commitment to civic education will yield a more equitable, prosperous, responsible and engaged democratic society.

Citizenship Counts is thrilled to be able to offer our innovative educational initiative <u>FREE OF CHARGE</u> to schools and community groups throughout the United States. We provide all users with our lesson plans, educational resources and staffing support to teach their students to appreciate the benefits of American citizenship, a privilege that is often taken for granted.

Have you ever witnessed a naturalization ceremony and felt your heart burst with pride? If not, we invite you to learn more about our program which brings authentic USCIS naturalization ceremonies into schools, which are essentially the heart and soul of every community. Through our curriculum, students across our nation have the opportunity to engage in a life-long learning journey which starts with our curriculum. They will learn the basics tenets of citizenship including what the naturalization process entails, take the citizenship exam, and if circumstances permit, interact and celebrate with the new citizens at an authentic naturalization ceremony! Students will walk away from our program with the knowledge of and pride in their good fortune that they are citizens of our incredible nation, the United States of America.

Our interactive program aims to be one that students will remember for the rest of their lives. Citizenship Counts provides the link that is relevant and critical for building better citizens. It is imperative that we inspire today's youth because they are our nation's future leaders. We hope that you will join us in our efforts! Please visit www.citizenshipcounts.org to learn more or email us at education@citizenshipcounts.org

Educate Appreciate Celebrate - we're reaching for the stars! Sincerely,

Alysa Cooper Executive Director

Syd Golston Education Director

Past President, National Council for the Social Studies