



LOWER 9TH WARD VOTER'S COALITION

THE CIVIC COMPASS SERIES™

COMMUNITY PARTNER GUIDE

High School Civic Engagement Initiative

2026-2027

Building Partnerships. Expanding Civic Learning. Preparing Young People for Civic Life.

BUILD • PLAN • EXPERIENCE • REFLECT • SUPPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE LOWER 9TH WARD VOTER'S COALITION

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REMEMBER

This Initiative is nonpartisan. It does not support or oppose any candidate, political party, or ballot proposition. Its purpose is civic education and student engagement.

Published by the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition as a nonpartisan educational resource for participating schools, Community Partners, volunteers, and Initiative supporters.

Letter from the President

Thank you for joining the 2026-2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative.

The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition believes that preparing young people for civic life is a shared responsibility. Schools educate. Families encourage participation. Community organizations bring experience and service. Public officials and election administrators provide trusted information. Together, these partners can help students understand not only how civic life works, but why informed participation matters.

Voter registration remains an important part of this work, but it is not the whole of civic learning. Students are better prepared for civic life when they understand government, public institutions, elections, community issues, public decision-making, leadership, service, and the many ways people participate in their communities.

This Guide is designed to help schools and Community Partners build strong partnerships around that broader purpose while keeping students, school priorities, reliable information, and nonpartisanship at the center.

Thank you for investing your time, knowledge, and commitment in New Orleans students.

Shawon Bernard

President, Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition

About the Initiative

The High School Civic Engagement Initiative is a nonpartisan educational partnership that connects schools with community organizations and trusted public resources to expand meaningful civic-learning opportunities for students throughout Orleans Parish.

The Initiative recognizes that voter registration is only one step in developing engaged citizens. Students are best prepared for civic life when they understand how government works, why elections matter, how public decisions affect their communities, and how they can positively contribute throughout their lives.

REMEMBER

The goal is not simply to schedule activities. The goal is to create meaningful opportunities for students to learn about civic life.

How to Use This Guide — Your Civic Compass

The Guide is organized around the way a school-community partnership moves through the year. Use the Civic Compass to find the section that matches what you need now.

1	BUILD	Establish the partnership and clarify roles.
2	PLAN	Identify the Learning Purpose and prepare.
3	EXPERIENCE	Connect students with civic life.
4	REFLECT	Consider what was learned and improve.
5	SUPPORT	Find tools, current opportunities, official resources, and Initiative support.

BUILD → PLAN → EXPERIENCE → REFLECT | SUPPORT is available throughout the journey.

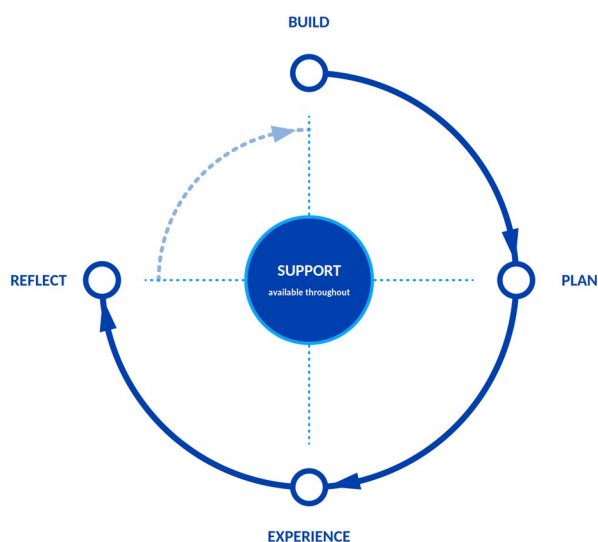


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SECTION 01

BUILD THE PARTNERSHIP

01 | BUILD

YOUR CIVIC COMPASS — WHERE YOU ARE NOW

● **BUILD** — ○ PLAN — ○ EXPERIENCE — ○ REFLECT

Support is available throughout.

SECTION 1

BUILD THE PARTNERSHIP

Who are we working with, and how will we work together?

Partnership First

Strong partnerships begin with a shared understanding of purpose, expectations, communication, and the responsibilities each partner brings. The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition serves as the convener and resource for the Initiative. Participating schools retain authority over what is appropriate for their students, schedules, policies, and educational priorities.

PARTNERSHIP PRACTICE

Partnership means collaborative planning. It does not transfer school authority to a Community Partner.

Your Partnership Team

SCHOOL LIAISON — the school's primary partnership contact
+ COMMUNITY PARTNER LEAD — the organization's primary partnership contact
= PARTNERSHIP TEAM — the core planning relationship

Community Partner Role

- Work collaboratively with the assigned school.
- Respect school policies, schedules, and instructional priorities.
- Participate in the Annual Orientation and other applicable preparation or training.
- Support civic education and nonpartisan student engagement.
- Encourage volunteers to act professionally and respectfully.
- Conduct voter-registration activities in compliance with applicable law and official guidance.

The Coalition's Role

- Convene and coordinate the High School Civic Engagement Initiative.
- Foster partnerships among schools, Community Partners, election officials, and other participating organizations.
- Provide planning resources, educational materials, and program updates.
- Coordinate the Annual Orientation and applicable training opportunities.
- Share official sources, current opportunity information, and initiative resources.
- Provide ongoing communication and support throughout the Initiative.

Partnership Documents

The following partnership documents are included here for use by participating organizations and schools. Their substantive commitments are preserved, with terminology and cross-references aligned to this Guide.

Invitation to Partner

Re: Invitation to Partner in the 2026-2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative

Dear _____:

The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition is pleased to invite [Organization Name] to partner with us in the 2026-2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative, a collaborative effort to expand civic education, leadership, and voter engagement opportunities for eligible students throughout Orleans Parish.

The Coalition believes that preparing young people for civic life is a shared responsibility. Schools educate. Families encourage participation. Community organizations inspire service. Election officials provide trusted guidance. Together, we help students understand not only how to participate in our democracy, but why civic participation matters.

This Initiative was developed to strengthen those partnerships.

For many years, the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition has worked alongside schools, community organizations, faith leaders, neighborhood associations, and public officials to encourage informed civic participation throughout New Orleans. The success of those efforts has always depended upon organizations willing to share their time, experience, and commitment to community service.

Your organization is receiving this invitation because of our shared commitment to strengthening our community. Whether through previous collaborations with the Coalition and local schools or through your organization's demonstrated leadership in civic engagement, youth development, education, or community service, your work reflects the values upon which this Initiative is built.

We would be honored to partner with your organization during the 2026-2027 school year.

Next Steps

- ☐ Review the Community Partner Guide.
- ☐ Complete the Community Partnership Commitment.
- ☐ Complete the Community Partner Profile.
- ☐ Designate your Community Partner Lead.
- ☐ Participate in the Annual Orientation and other applicable preparation or training.

Following the Annual Orientation, the Coalition will work with participating organizations and schools to coordinate school partnerships and begin planning for the school year.

Thank you for considering this invitation to partner with the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition. We look forward to working alongside your organization in support of New Orleans students.

Respectfully,
Shawon Bernard
President, Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition

Community Partnership Commitment

Building Informed Citizens. Strengthening Communities. Empowering the Next Generation of Voters.

Purpose

The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition believes that preparing young people for civic life is a shared responsibility. The 2026–2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative connects schools, community organizations, election officials, institutions of higher education, and community leaders in support of civic education and nonpartisan civic engagement opportunities for eligible students throughout Orleans Parish.

Our Shared Commitment

- ☐ Encouraging informed civic participation.
- ☐ Supporting high-quality civic education.
- ☐ Promoting student leadership and community involvement.
- ☐ Respecting the educational mission and policies of participating schools.
- ☐ Conducting Initiative activities in a professional, respectful, and nonpartisan manner.
- ☐ Building lasting partnerships that strengthen our community.

This Commitment is based upon cooperation, mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a common vision—not upon hierarchy or control.

The Coalition's Commitment

- ☐ Convene and coordinate the High School Civic Engagement Initiative.
- ☐ Foster partnerships among schools, Community Partners, election officials, and other participating organizations.
- ☐ Provide planning resources, educational materials, and initiative updates.
- ☐ Coordinate the Annual Orientation and applicable training opportunities.
- ☐ Share official sources, current opportunity information, and initiative resources.
- ☐ Provide ongoing communication and support throughout the Initiative.
- ☐ Recognize the contributions of participating Community Partners.

Community Partner Commitment

- ☐ Designate a Community Partner Lead to communicate with the Coalition and participating schools.
- ☐ Work collaboratively with school leadership to support approved Civic Learning Experiences.

- ☐ Participate in the Annual Orientation and other applicable training.
- ☐ Encourage volunteers to conduct themselves professionally while participating in school activities.
- ☐ Respect school policies, schedules, and instructional priorities.
- ☐ Support civic education and student engagement opportunities consistent with the goals of the Initiative.
- ☐ Conduct voter-registration activities in compliance with applicable Louisiana law and official guidance.

Nonpartisan Commitment

The High School Civic Engagement Initiative is a nonpartisan educational initiative. Initiative activities shall not be used to support or oppose a candidate or political party, advocate for or against a ballot proposition during school activities, distribute campaign materials during Initiative-sponsored events, or engage in political campaigning while participating in Initiative activities.

Nothing in this Commitment limits an organization's lawful activities outside the scope of this Initiative.

Duration & Nature of Commitment

This Community Partnership Commitment applies to participation in the 2026–2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative and remains in effect through completion of the Initiative unless either party provides written notice that it no longer wishes to participate.

This Commitment expresses a shared understanding and is not intended to create a legal partnership, contractual obligation, financial obligation, employment relationship, or agency relationship between the parties.

Signatures

Community Partner Organization _____

Authorized Representative _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Community Partner Lead _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition Representative

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition and _____

Effective Date _____

Term: through completion of the 2026–2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative unless modified or terminated in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article I — Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition (“Coalition”) and _____ (“Partner”) to establish a collaborative relationship in support of the 2026–2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative. The Initiative is a nonpartisan educational partnership designed to expand civic education, civic leadership, and civic participation opportunities for eligible high school students throughout Orleans Parish.

Article II — Guiding Principles

Mutual respect • Collaboration • Educational excellence • Student-centered programming • Nonpartisanship • Transparency • Open communication • Respect for school autonomy • Compliance with applicable laws and policies

Article III — Scope of Collaboration

The Coalition and Partner intend to collaborate in planning and supporting school-approved Civic Learning Experiences, including civic education, student leadership, voter education and registration when appropriate, public service, community service, and other mutually agreed-upon educational opportunities.

Article IV — Responsibilities of the Coalition

Convene and coordinate the Initiative; facilitate communication; provide planning resources and program guidance; coordinate the Annual Orientation and applicable training; share official election information and available resources; assist in coordinating school partnerships and educational activities; and recognize participating organizations.

Article V — Responsibilities of the Partner

Designate a Community Partner Lead; participate in planning meetings and the Annual Orientation; work collaboratively with assigned school leadership and Coalition representatives; support approved Civic Learning Experiences; ensure professional conduct; conduct voter-registration activities in accordance with Louisiana law and official guidance; and promptly communicate scheduling changes or concerns.

Article VI — Joint Responsibilities

Maintain regular communication; respect the authority and policies of participating schools; coordinate activities in advance; encourage positive student engagement; share information that improves Initiative planning and implementation; and work collaboratively to resolve concerns.

Article VII — Nonpartisan Activities

Activities conducted pursuant to this MOU shall not be used to support or oppose a candidate or political party, campaign for or against ballot propositions during Initiative-sponsored school activities, or distribute campaign materials during Initiative events. Nothing contained herein limits either party's lawful activities outside the scope of this Initiative.

Article VIII — Compliance with Laws and Policies

Each party agrees to comply with applicable federal laws, Louisiana election laws, official guidance governing third-party voter-registration activities, applicable school district policies, school visitor procedures, student privacy requirements, and additional requirements established by participating schools.

Article IX — Financial Responsibilities

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, each party is responsible for its own personnel, volunteers, equipment, insurance, travel expenses, and operational costs associated with participation in the Initiative. Execution of this MOU does not create a financial obligation upon either party.

Article X — Term and Termination

This MOU becomes effective upon execution by both parties. Either party may terminate it by written notice to the other party.

Article XI — Modification

This MOU may be amended only through a written agreement executed by authorized representatives of both parties.

Article XII — Independent Organizations

Nothing in this MOU creates a legal partnership, joint venture, employment relationship, agency relationship, or legal authority for one party to bind the other. Each party remains an independent organization responsible for its own governance and operations.

Article XIII — Primary Contacts

The Coalition and Partner will maintain current contact information for their authorized representatives and the Partner's Community Partner Lead.

Article XIV — Entire Understanding

This MOU reflects the entire understanding between the parties regarding participation in the 2026-2027 High School Civic Engagement Initiative and supersedes prior discussions concerning the subject matter herein.

Authorized Signatures

Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition — Shawon Bernard, President

Date _____

Community Partner Organization _____

Authorized Representative _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Community Partner Profile

Strong partnerships begin with knowing one another.

This profile helps the Coalition understand your organization, identify strengths, coordinate school partnerships, and support a successful High School Civic Engagement Initiative.

Section I — Organization Information

Organization Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Website _____

General Email _____

Main Telephone _____

Year Founded _____

Mission Statement (Brief) _____

Section II — Organization Leadership

President / Executive Director _____

Title _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Community Partner Lead _____

Title _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Alternate Contact _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Section III — About Your Organization

☐ Neighborhood Association

☐ Civic Organization

- ☐ Faith-Based Organization
- ☐ Nonprofit Organization
- ☐ Professional Association
- ☐ Fraternity / Sorority
- ☐ Educational Organization
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Government Agency
- ☐ College / University
- ☐ Other: _____

Section IV — Partnership Interests

- ☐ Civic Education
- ☐ Student Leadership
- ☐ Constitution Day
- ☐ National Voter Registration Day
- ☐ Student Voter Registration
- ☐ Election Education
- ☐ Public Service Careers
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Student Mentoring
- ☐ Career Day
- ☐ Parent Engagement
- ☐ Volunteer Recruitment
- ☐ Other: _____

Section V — Volunteer Capacity

- ☐ 1–5 volunteers
- ☐ 6–10 volunteers
- ☐ 11–20 volunteers

- ☐ 21-40 volunteers
- ☐ More than 40 volunteers

Preferred Number of Schools _____

Preferred School Area (Optional) _____

Section VI — Previous Partnership Experience

- ☐ Previously partnered with the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition: Yes / No
- ☐ Previously partnered with Orleans Parish schools: Yes / No

If yes, identify school(s) or program(s) _____

Section VII — Third-Party Voter Registration

- ☐ Our organization plans to participate in student voter registration: Yes / No / TBD
- ☐ Our organization has reviewed current official third-party voter-registration requirements: Yes / No
- ☐ Representatives will participate in applicable Annual Orientation/training on third-party voter-registration requirements: Yes / No / TBD

Section VIII — Partnership Goals

What do you hope students gain through this partnership? _____

What strengths or resources would you like to share? _____

Section IX — Organization Certification

I certify that the information provided is accurate. I understand that participation in the High School Civic Engagement Initiative is voluntary and that our organization agrees to work collaboratively with participating schools, the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition, and other Community Partners in support of nonpartisan civic education and student engagement.

Organization _____

Representative _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

School & Community Partnership Plan

This planning document helps the Partnership Team connect school priorities, Community Partner strengths, student learning goals, and appropriate Civic Learning Experiences.

A — School Priorities

School _____

Principal _____

School Liaison _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- ☐ Civic Education
- ☐ Student Leadership
- ☐ Eligible Student Voter Registration
- ☐ Election Education
- ☐ Public Service Career Awareness
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Parent & Family Engagement
- ☐ Student Government
- ☐ Other: _____

Existing programs, clubs, courses, or activities _____

Preferred months _____

Testing windows / major events _____

Other considerations _____

B — Community Partner Strengths & Resources

Organization _____

Community Partner Lead _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- ☐ Civic Education Presentations

- ☐ Guest Speakers
- ☐ Student Mentoring
- ☐ Leadership Development
- ☐ Career Exploration
- ☐ Public Service Professionals
- ☐ Eligible Student Voter Registration Assistance
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Volunteers
- ☐ Educational Materials
- ☐ Meeting Space
- ☐ Other: _____

C — Student Learning Goals / Learning Purpose

LEARNING PURPOSE

What should students have an opportunity to understand, explore, question, observe, or experience?

Learning Purpose

D — Civic Learning Experiences Being Considered

Experience / Opportunity	Target Month or Window	Lead / Shared Responsibility	Preparation Needed

Experience / Opportunity	Target Month or Window	Lead / Shared Responsibility	Preparation Needed

Use one row per Civic Learning Experience being considered. Add additional rows if needed.

E — Partnership Communication & Responsibilities

School Liaison + Community Partner Lead = Partnership Team

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Text
- ☐ Monthly planning
- ☐ Quarterly planning
- ☐ As needed

F — Coalition Support Requested

- ☐ Current election information / official sources
- ☐ Student voter-registration materials
- ☐ Third-party voter-registration guidance
- ☐ Civic education resources
- ☐ Guest speaker referrals
- ☐ Election official coordination
- ☐ Additional Community Partners
- ☐ Volunteer support
- ☐ Problem-solving assistance
- ☐ Other: _____

For student and Partnership Team reflection, continue to Section 4 — Reflection & Continuous Improvement.

Partnership Acknowledgment

School Representative _____

Title _____

Date _____

Community Partner Representative _____

Title _____

Date _____

SECTION 02

PLAN WITH PURPOSE

02 | PLAN

YOUR CIVIC COMPASS — WHERE YOU ARE NOW

☐ BUILD — ☒ **PLAN** — ☐ EXPERIENCE — ☐ REFLECT

Support is available throughout.

SECTION 2

PLAN WITH PURPOSE

What do we want students to learn, understand, explore, or experience?

Start With Students

- Who are the students?
- What are they already learning?
- What civic concepts or experiences could strengthen that learning?
- What questions or issues are meaningful to them?
- What opportunities are appropriate for their age, school setting, and educational goals?

Connect School Priorities + Community Partner Strengths

THE SCHOOL BRINGS	THE COMMUNITY PARTNER BRINGS
Educational priorities	Community knowledge
Student needs	Experience
Curriculum connections	Relationships
Schedules	Speakers
Policies	Volunteers
Existing programs	Civic connections and resources

Identify the Learning Purpose

What should students have an opportunity to understand, explore, question, observe, or experience?

That answer is the Learning Purpose. It should come before choosing an event, meeting, speaker, forum, registration activity, or other Civic Learning Experience.

Explore Civic Learning Pathways

- Government & Public Institutions
- Elections & Voting
- Community Issues & Public Decision-Making
- Leadership & Public Service
- Service & Community Participation

The pathways are broad categories that help the Partnership Team think beyond a single activity or election. They are not a checklist, and a partnership is not expected to use every pathway.

Choose a Civic Learning Experience

A Civic Learning Experience is selected because it serves a Learning Purpose. It may allow students to observe, explore, engage appropriately, connect with people and institutions, or practice civic skills.

- At school
- Online
- At a public meeting or public institution
- Through a guest speaker or panel
- Through research or discussion
- Through a Student Civic Forum
- Through service or community participation
- Through another school-approved educational format

Prepare the Experience

- School approval and procedures
- Timing and student preparation
- Accessibility
- Transportation or permissions, when applicable
- Speakers or hosts
- Reliable and official information
- Nonpartisanship
- Safety and logistics
- Follow-up and reflection

School & Community Partnership Plan

The planning tool should capture school priorities, Community Partner strengths and resources, student learning goals, Civic Learning Experiences being considered, communication responsibilities, and any Coalition support requested. Year-end reflection is consolidated in Section 4 rather than duplicated in the planning form.

REMEMBER

Looking for a current opportunity? Use the Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder — then return to the Learning Purpose.

SECTION 03

CIVIC LEARNING IN ACTION

03 | EXPERIENCE

YOUR CIVIC COMPASS — WHERE YOU ARE NOW

☐ BUILD — ☐ PLAN — ☒ **EXPERIENCE** — ☐ REFLECT

Support is available throughout.

SECTION 3

CIVIC LEARNING IN ACTION

How do students encounter civic life beyond the page?

Section 3 uses the same Civic Learning Pathways introduced in Section 2. The goal is not attendance or activity completion by itself; the goal is student learning.

Pathway 1 — Government & Public Institutions

- Observe or attend appropriate New Orleans City Council meetings.
- Observe appropriate City Council committee meetings.
- Attend meetings of public boards or commissions when they support the Learning Purpose.
- Learn about local or state government offices and public-service roles.
- Follow an issue through stages of public decision-making.
- Compare responsibilities of local, state, and federal government.

REMEMBER

**Before: What body are we observing and what authority does it have?
During: What do students notice? After: What did students learn about
public decision-making?**

Louisiana Legislature

When the Louisiana Legislature is in session, students may have opportunities to observe the House, Senate, committee meetings, bill consideration, public testimony, legislative debate, and other parts of the lawmaking process. Use current official legislative resources and the Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder for current session and meeting information.

REMEMBER

Prepare students to understand the institution, its authority, and the public process before asking them to follow a particular issue or decision.

Pathway 2 — Elections & Voting

- Voter education
- Eligible-student voter registration
- High School Voter Registration Week
- Understanding ballots and election processes
- Learning about public offices appearing on a ballot
- Early-voting education and appropriate High School Early Voting opportunities
- Student Civic Forums

- Learning from election officials

Student Civic Forum

A Student Civic Forum is a student-centered Civic Learning Experience that may focus on a public office, governmental process, community issue, election, candidates when appropriate, or another civic-learning topic. A candidate forum is one possible type of Student Civic Forum—not a synonym for every forum.

REMEMBER

When a Student Civic Forum is connected to an election, plan for it to occur at least 30 days before early voting begins whenever practicable.

The educational benefit of the 30-day benchmark is the time it creates for students to reflect, ask additional questions, research, compare reliable information, continue classroom discussion, and prepare to participate when eligible.

Pathway 3 — Community Issues & Public Decision-Making

- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Education
- Environmental concerns
- Neighborhood development
- Public safety
- Budgets
- Recreation
- Other community issues appropriate to the school setting

Students can ask: Who makes this decision? What information is being considered? Who is affected? How can members of the public participate? Where can reliable information be found?

Pathway 4 — Leadership & Public Service

- Student leadership
- Public-service career exploration
- Meeting public servants
- Understanding appointed and elected roles
- Learning how agencies operate
- Student government
- Leadership development

Pathway 5 — Service & Community Participation

- Community service connected to a civic-learning purpose
- Learning about the community need being addressed
- Understanding which public or community institutions are involved

- Reflecting on collective responsibility and community participation

Finding Current Opportunities

REMEMBER

Use the Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder to identify current dates, meetings, public processes, civic observances, election milestones, Student Civic Forum planning windows, and other possible Civic Learning Experiences.

Observation is participation in learning. Students do not have to speak publicly, advocate a position, or engage directly in a governmental process for the experience to be meaningful.

SECTION 04

REFLECTION & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

04 | REFLECT

YOUR CIVIC COMPASS — WHERE YOU ARE NOW

○ BUILD — ○ PLAN — ○ EXPERIENCE — ● **REFLECT**

Support is available throughout.

SECTION 4

REFLECTION & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

What did students and partners learn, and what should we carry forward?

The Experience Does Not End When the Activity Ends

Reflection helps students make meaning of what they observed, questioned, discovered, or experienced. It also helps the Partnership Team improve future Civic Learning Experiences.

Student Reflection

NOTICE → UNDERSTAND → QUESTION → CONNECT

NOTICE	What did I observe?
UNDERSTAND	What do I understand better now?
QUESTION	What questions do I still have?
CONNECT	How does this connect to my community, something I am learning, or civic life?

Partnership Team Reflection

Return to the Learning Purpose identified during planning. Consider what evidence suggests the Civic Learning Experience supported that purpose, what preparation worked, what students needed, how coordination worked, and what should change next time.

- What did students appear to learn or question?
- What worked well in preparation and coordination?
- What would we improve?
- What should we build upon next time?

Optional Reflection Tools

- Student Quick Reflection
- Quick Partnership Reflection
- Partnership Growth Plan

These optional tools are available through Compass Center™. They are supports—not additional completion, submission, or reporting requirements unless specifically identified otherwise.

PLAN → EXPERIENCE → REFLECT

SECTION 05

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

05 | SUPPORT

YOUR CIVIC COMPASS — WHERE YOU ARE NOW

☐ BUILD — ☐ PLAN — ☐ EXPERIENCE — ☐ REFLECT

Support is available throughout.

SECTION 5

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

Support is available throughout the journey.

Whether you are building the partnership, planning a Civic Learning Experience, preparing for an election-related activity, looking for current information, or reflecting afterward, use this section to find the appropriate resource or support.

Annual Orientation

The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition has scheduled its Annual Orientation for August 26, 2026. The session is designed for Community Partners, volunteers, and school personnel and serves two purposes: initiative orientation and current official information/training relevant to voter registration and election administration.

- Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Office
- Orleans Parish Clerk of Court — Elections
- Louisiana Secretary of State — Elections & Voting

REMEMBER

The Coalition introduces the Initiative and partnership expectations. The responsible public offices provide official information within their respective areas.

Compass Center™

The Community Partner Guide provides the shared framework for the initiative. Compass Center™ provides optional ready-to-use tools and expanded supports referenced throughout the Guide.

COMPASS CENTER™

The Guide provides the framework. Compass Center™ provides additional tools when you need them.

When You Need a Little More

- A ready-to-use planning tool
- Additional help preparing a Civic Learning Experience
- A student reflection resource
- A quick Partnership Team discussion tool
- Communication or implementation support

- Expanded guidance referenced in the Community Partner Guide

What You May Find

- Partnership planning tools
- Civic Learning Experience preparation resources
- Student reflection supports
- Partnership Team reflection tools
- Discussion guides
- Communication and implementation aids
- Expanded guidance referenced throughout the Community Partner Guide

COMPASS CENTER™

Optional means optional. Use what helps. Leave what you don't need.



Compass Center™ Access

Scan the QR code, or visit L9WVC.org/compass.

Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder

The Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder is an annually updated companion resource that helps Partnership Teams identify current civic-learning opportunities, important dates, public meetings, legislative-learning opportunities, election milestones, and other possibilities that may support student learning.

REMEMBER

Its job: What opportunities are available?

Key Contacts & Official Resources

When information is time-sensitive, procedural, election-related, or governmental, verify it through the public authority responsible for it.

Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition	Initiative and partnership support — L9voters@gmail.com www.l9wvc.org
Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Office	Voter registration and voter services — Official Website
Orleans Parish Clerk of Court — Elections	Local election administration — Official Elections Page
Louisiana Secretary of State — Elections & Voting	Statewide election information — Official Elections & Voting Page
Louisiana State Government — Three Branches of Government	Executive, Legislative & Judicial Branches — Official State Government Page

City of New Orleans	Local government information — Official City Website
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OFFICIAL SOURCE

CHECK THE SOURCE. CHECK THAT IT IS CURRENT.

Need Initiative Support?

The Lower 9th Ward Voter’s Coalition remains available to help participating schools and Community Partners navigate initiative resources, identify possible connections, coordinate appropriate support, and address partnership questions.



Annual Update Notice

Some Information Changes. The Framework Remains.

The Community Partner Guide provides a continuing framework for the High School Civic Engagement Initiative. Some information referenced throughout the Guide, however, may change from year to year—or during the school year.

- Election dates, deadlines, and procedures
- Early-voting periods
- Legislative sessions and committee schedules
- Public meeting dates, locations, and agendas
- Official governmental procedures or requirements that may be updated
- School schedules or procedures
- Contact information
- Initiative dates, resources, or opportunities

REMEMBER

When planning a Civic Learning Experience, use the current version of time-sensitive information rather than relying on information from a prior year.

Verify Current Information

CHECK THE SOURCE — Is the information from the public office, school, organization, or other official source responsible for it?

CHECK THAT IT IS CURRENT — Is the date, schedule, procedure, location, deadline, contact information, or other time-sensitive information still current?

Community Partners are not expected to independently interpret election law, legislation, or governmental requirements. When clarification is needed, consult the appropriate official source or contact the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition for initiative support.

Annually Updated Resources

- Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder
- Selected resources available through Compass Center™

When an annually updated resource is referenced, use its current version. Updates to those resources do not, by themselves, change the version number of this Guide.

REMEMBER

USE THE FRAMEWORK. VERIFY WHAT CHANGES.

Acknowledgments

Civic Learning Is Partnership Work.

The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition extends its appreciation to the schools, Community Partners, public agencies, civic organizations, educators, volunteers, and community leaders who contribute their time, knowledge, and experience to the High School Civic Engagement Initiative.

REMEMBER

Young people learn about civic life not only by studying how democracy works, but also by having meaningful opportunities to see it, question it, understand it, and experience it.

To Our Schools

Thank you to the school leaders, School Liaisons, educators, and staff who make space for meaningful civic learning while keeping students, learning goals, and school responsibilities at the center of the work.

To Our Community Partners & Volunteers

Thank you for bringing your time, experience, community knowledge, and commitment into partnership with schools. Your partnership helps transform civic concepts into meaningful learning experiences by connecting students with community knowledge, civic institutions, public processes, and opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

To Our Education, Civic & Public-Institution Partners

The Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition gratefully acknowledges the Orleans Parish School Board for its continuing support of opportunities for high school students to engage in voter registration, voter education, early voting, and civic learning.

Through resolutions supporting high school voter registration, voter education, and early voting opportunities, the Orleans Parish School Board has encouraged schools under its jurisdiction to make these opportunities available to students in partnership with community organizations, including the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition. The Board's support recognizes these opportunities as part of educating students in civics, social studies, and the political process.

We also appreciate School Board members, City leaders, and other public officials who, from year to year, lend their support and presence to High School Voter Registration Week, High School Early Voting events, Student Civic Forums, and other appropriate student civic-learning opportunities.

Annual Orientation

We further recognize the continuing educational support provided through the Initiative's Annual Orientation. Representatives of the following offices are invited to participate and provide current information within their respective areas:

- Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Office
- Orleans Parish Clerk of Court — Elections
- Louisiana Secretary of State — Elections & Voting

Their participation helps school personnel, Community Partners, and volunteers begin the initiative year with current information relevant to voter registration, election administration, election procedures, and the responsibilities of organizations supporting student voter-registration efforts.

Most Importantly, To Our Students

Thank you for bringing your questions, curiosity, observations, ideas, experiences, and voices to civic learning.

The goal of this initiative is not to tell students what to think. It is to create opportunities for students to learn how civic institutions and processes work, ask informed questions, examine reliable information, consider different perspectives, and understand the many ways people participate in civic life.

Your questions matter.

Your learning matters.

Your voice matters.

Your perspective belongs in the civic-learning experience.

REMEMBER

Strong civic learning grows from strong partnerships.

Thank you for contributing what you know, listening to what others bring, and helping create opportunities for students to learn.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

Key Terms

These terms are used throughout the Community Partner Guide and related resources of the High School Civic Engagement Initiative.

Annual Civic Engagement Opportunity Finder

An annually updated resource that helps Partnership Teams identify current civic-learning opportunities, important dates, public meetings, election-related milestones, civic observances, and other possibilities that may support student learning. Opportunities should be considered in relation to the students' Learning Purpose and school priorities.

Annual Orientation

The Initiative's annual orientation and preparation session for Community Partners, volunteers, and school personnel. The session introduces Initiative expectations and resources and provides access to current information and guidance from participating public offices and other appropriate presenters.

Civic Compass

The Guide's framework for moving through the Initiative: Build the partnership, Plan with purpose, Experience civic life, and Reflect for continuous improvement—with Support available throughout the journey.

Civic Learning Experience

A purposeful opportunity that helps students understand, explore, question, observe, practice, or connect with civic life. A Civic Learning Experience may occur at school, online, in the community, at a public meeting or government office, through a guest speaker, through service, or in another school-approved educational setting.

Civic Learning Pathway

A broad area through which students can encounter civic life. The Guide identifies pathways involving Government & Public Institutions; Elections & Voting; Community Issues & Public Decision-Making; Leadership & Public Service; and Service & Community Participation. Partnership Teams may use the pathways to explore possibilities; they are not a required checklist.

Community Partner

A participating organization that works collaboratively with a school and the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition to support nonpartisan civic education and appropriate Civic Learning Experiences for students.

Community Partner Lead

The person designated by a Community Partner to serve as its primary point of contact and coordinate the organization's participation with the school, the Coalition, and others involved in the Initiative.

Compass Center™

The Initiative's collection of optional tools and expanded support for planning, implementation,

reflection, and partnership growth. Compass Center™ resources supplement the Guide and do not create additional completion, submission, or reporting requirements unless specifically identified otherwise.

Learning Purpose

A clear statement of what students should have an opportunity to understand, explore, question, observe, or experience through a planned Civic Learning Experience. The Learning Purpose helps the Partnership Team select opportunities based on student learning rather than simply on what activities are available.

Partnership Team

The School Liaison and Community Partner Lead working together as the core planning and communication team for the school-community partnership. The Partnership Team collaborates on planning while the school retains authority over its students, policies, schedule, and educational decisions.

School Liaison

The person designated by the participating school to coordinate the school's involvement in the Initiative and serve as the primary school contact for the Community Partner Lead and the Coalition.

Student Civic Forum

A student-centered, nonpartisan Civic Learning Experience designed to help students explore a public office, governmental process, community issue, election, candidates when appropriate, or another civic topic. A candidate forum may be one type of Student Civic Forum, but the term is not limited to candidate events.