



Center for Civic Education

CIVITAS



An International Civic Education Exchange Program

Civitas: An International Civic Education Exchange Program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the United States Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress. The program is implemented worldwide in cooperation with the United States Department of State.

Civic Exchange: U.S.–Mexico A Civic Education Exchange Project

The **Civic Exchange: U.S.-Mexico (Civic Exchange)** program seeks to teach civic skills, instill democratic values, and promote understanding between students of the United States and Mexico. It will form partnerships among schools in the United States and Mexico. Students will learn about each other through class lessons and activities. Once partnered schools are familiar with each other, they will select a public policy problem with similar characteristics in their respective communities using the **We the People: Project Citizen** curricular material. U.S. and Mexican students will then work to research and propose a solution. The **Civic Exchange** project will culminate with a presentation before an international panel of political and community leaders in which the students from the U.S. and Mexico will present their particular solutions. Student exchanges and other activities will be conducted between the partnered schools during the program in order to familiarize students with each other and facilitate the interchange of ideas, information, and experiences.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the program are to

- teach students the necessary skills for democratic participation within their communities
- instill democratic values
- teach students about government and public policy
- promote understanding, tolerance, and respect between young people from the United States and Mexico

CURRICULAR MATERIAL

The instructional program in the United States will utilize the Center's *We the People: Project Citizen* curricula. Mexican schools will utilize *Nosotros Los Jóvenes... Proyecto Ciudadano*, the adaptation of *Project Citizen* developed by the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE).

We the People: Project Citizen and its Mexican adaptation, **Nosotros los Jóvenes... Proyecto Ciudadano**, are civic education programs that promote competent and responsible participation in state and local government. **Project Citizen** actively engages students in learning how to monitor and influence public policy, and encourages civic participation among students, their parents, and members of the community.

Instructional material in both countries will include selected community-building lessons from **Civic-Link** developed by Cooperation Ireland, a nonprofit organization working in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland on issues of civic education, youth, and community building.

EVALUATION

IFE and the Center will conduct focus group analysis and other types of evaluation mechanisms where appropriate.

ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING

Civic Exchange is administered by IFE in Mexico and by the Center in the United States and conducted under the Mexico/Center for Civic Education partnership. The partnership is part of **Civitas Latin America: A Civic Education Exchange Program (Civitas Latin America)**. **Civitas Latin America** is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the U.S. Congress. **Civitas Latin America** builds upon and expands the work conducted by the Center's worldwide **Civitas: An International Civic Education Exchange Program**

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