



www.citizenschools.org



The Citizen Schools National Network includes 24 program sites across 13 cities in 5 states (as of January 2005)

Citizen Schools partners with community-based organizations and school districts. We plan to grow to 60 sites in 25 cities by 2007.

Key Elements of the Model

Apprenticeships link small groups of middle-school students with talented adult volunteers, whom we call "Citizen Teachers," in hands-on learning projects. Citizen Teachers come from all walks of life and share their passions and professions with youth apprentices.

Explorations give students the chance to explore their city's cultural and civic resources. We travel in groups to local museums, ethnic neighborhoods, natural areas, and universities.

Homework Investment Time provides an opportunity for Citizen Schools to support in-school learning, helping students build academic skills and foster communication and cooperation with their teachers and families.

Leadership skills and positive values are woven into the culture of our school campuses through program rituals and team-building activities that teach the seven values of joy, pride, respect, courage, vision, teamwork, and perseverance.

Innovative staffing models attract outstanding educators and help professionalize the field of after-school learning. Our two-year National Teaching Fellowship Program places educators in afternoons at Citizen Schools program sites and in mornings at partner organizations such as schools, museums, and community organizations. We offer graduate courses for the Teaching Fellows leading to an accredited Master of Education degree from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Citizen Schools inspires WOWs and delivers results. We operate a National Network of apprenticeship programs for youth that connects middle-school students with adult volunteers in hands-on learning. At Citizen Schools, students develop the academic and leadership skills they need to do well in school, get into college, and become leaders in their careers and in their communities. In 2004-05 we have enrolled 2,000 *middle-school students* and engaged 1,500 *volunteers* at 24 *school campus sites* nationwide.

WOWs

The amazing work that Citizen Schools apprentices do will make you say "WOW." Working alongside volunteer experts – Citizen Teachers – they build solar cars, publish children's books, organize public health campaigns, test water quality, litigate mock trials, and launch web sites. At the end of their apprenticeships, youth apprentices teach back what they have learned in public venues, earning the admiration and respect of their parents and families, their teachers, their peers, and themselves.



Results

In 2003-04, an independent, scientific evaluation of our program found that Citizen Schools participants outperformed a matched comparison group by significant levels on each of two short- to mid-term outcomes: entrance to public college-track high schools and advancement to 10th grade on time. Also, two cohorts of program participants who attended at least 80% of program days outperformed their matched comparison group by statistically significant levels in six of seven academic indicators (such as, reading and math test scores).



Vision

We envision a day when all citizens in communities across the country work with schools to help young people develop the academic skills and practical abilities needed to succeed as 21st century workforce and civic leaders.

Leadership

Citizen Schools is a nationally recognized leader in the fast-growing field of after-school learning. Our innovations in engaging young people, mobilizing volunteers, attracting and developing leaders, and partnering with the private sector are creating solutions for the most pressing issues in education. Citizen Schools University (CSU) is our research and innovation institute. CSU focuses on organizational learning, research and evaluation, publishing, and national public policy.

Partnerships

Citizen Schools works closely with teachers, school administrators, and parents to integrate learning that happens in-school, after-school, and at home. We partner with local non-profit organizations through the National Teaching Fellowship Program to strengthen community connections with youth. We collaborate deeply across our National Network, sharing staff and program content with community-based organizations and school districts.



Citizen Schools is a national network of after-school apprenticeship programs for young people ages 9-14. By connecting youth with trained after-school educators and adult volunteers from businesses and civic organizations, Citizen Schools offers safe, fun, and results-oriented learning opportunities that improve academic skills and promote positive relationships. Founded in 1995, Citizen Schools strives to change the long-term life trajectories of educationally at-risk students and help them become workforce and civic leaders. For more information, visit www.citizenschools.org.