

DEMOCRACYREADY NY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

JOIN TODAY TO HELP SHAPE THE CONVERSATION AROUND CIVIC ISSUES FOR TOMORROW

WHO WE ARE

DemocracyReady NY is a statewide, nonpartisan, intergenerational coalition of organizations and individuals committed to preparing all students for civic participation [see <http://www.democracyreadyny.org>]. The New York State constitution guarantees every student the right to education defined in terms of preparation for civic participation. Far too many schools, particularly schools that serve students in poverty, Black and Brown students, and rural students, are ill equipped to provide this type of education and to fulfill this critical guarantee. We believe that equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, experiences, and values, young people will recognize their civic roles and exercise their civic powers to work to improve their schools and their society.

WHY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT?

This committee was formed because DemocracyReady NY recognizes the importance of including the voices of young people in all of our deliberations and activities. Our goal is to ensure that young people are valued stakeholders in creating effective and inclusive policies, programs and environments. Students who join the DemocracyReady NY Youth Engagement Committee will be given the opportunity to express their views on important civic issues and to help mold state policy. They will also develop leadership skills by participating in significant civic-oriented activities that will affect the state, their communities, and our broader society.

GOALS

- To promote all New York students' right under the state constitution to function productively as civic participants capable of actively participating in community activities including voting and serving on juries,
- To raise awareness about that right through civic efforts,
- To mobilize the expertise of students to work collectively toward these goals,
- To include the voices of youth participants in Coalition deliberations, and
- To improve students' civic skills and civic experiences.

BENEFITS

As members of this committee, students will be able to participate in policy formation, professional and social networking opportunities with people from all over New York State, serve as advocates for civic engagement, develop leadership skills, and add an important area of accomplishment to their college application. Participation in this committee includes a time commitment of 2-6 hours per month including monthly conference calls.