

Re-imagining the Learning Day

Citizen Schools adds a “second shift” of educators

EMERGING RESEARCH MAKES clear that our nation’s students, especially those who come from low-income families and who attend low-performing schools, need more time for learning, more relevance in their learning activities, and more caring adults involved in their lives. Yet education reform efforts are stuck, stymied by a six-hour school day and a workforce of overburdened teachers. To restore the promise of education as America’s pathway to opportunity, we need to re-imagine the learning day and re-define the who, the how, the when, and the where of education in our country.

In its after-school and expanded day programs, Citizen Schools works intensively with students to explore new disciplines and build new skills. Learning alongside volunteer **Citizen Teachers**, they complete projects that create real value in their communities. They become stewards of their own futures and advance confidently towards college and career opportunities.

Citizen Schools takes resources that are available in every community and combines them in a new way, to

accelerate learning, expand opportunity, and reinvigorate civic life. We draw on the abundance of:

- Time:** the 4,000 waking hours each child spends out of school each year.
- Volunteers:** adults from all backgrounds who are eager to share their experience and expertise.
- School buildings:** a community’s largest capital investment that typically lies dormant after the dismissal bell.
- Aspiring educators:** recent college graduates with a passion for young people and hands-on learning.
- Students:** young people across the country eager to be challenged, mentored, and taken seriously.

To change the trajectories of America’s children, we have to break down the classroom walls. Open up learning to the real world, engage people across communities to connect to young people, get more citizens involved in education: that’s Citizen Schools.



COMMITTED TO RESULTS

We measure our impact through a rigorous independent evaluation, internal analysis of our program’s effectiveness, and the excellent work students create every semester—work we call WOW!

BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Program sites in 2008: 44 in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Texas
 Students now served: ~4,000
 Volunteers now engaged: ~3,000

GETTING MORE OUT-OF-SCHOOL

Our vision is that our innovations and impact will help change the direction of the nation’s education policy, helping the after-school sector to become a full partner in authentic, large-scale change.

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