

The New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education (NH Civics) advocates for the core principles expressed in our country's fundamental documents, which include: the democratic rule of law; insistence on due process; respect for individual rights; promotion of the general welfare; insistence on equal protection; and the proportionate use of government force only to ensure safety and protect the common good for all communities. NH Civics promotes human rights, voting rights, and equal access to justice for all, and opposes unlawful discrimination because of age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, national origin, or sexual orientation. We believe that all persons are created equal.

We are aware - more than ever before - that as a nation, we have much left to do to honor our core principles of equity and equality. The recent and on-going killings of Black Americans are examples of a long-standing history and practice of violence and racism embedded in our culture, our history, and our civic practice. The continued harm perpetrated against people of color must end.

Despite efforts to address inequities where they exist in the Granite State, New Hampshire is not immune from the racism displayed across our country. At NH Civics, we are revitalizing and reemphasizing our intentional commitment to combatting racism and teaching acceptance by:

- Providing ongoing professional development for educators around these critical problems, including how to facilitate challenging conversations about current and controversial issues including racism and bigotry. Through teachers, we seek to reach all students, no matter where they live in the State.
- Continuing our work to build leadership and authentic student and youth voice opportunities in all schools and each community in New Hampshire.
- Sharing on our website and in newsletters high-quality and relevant resources for educators as they teach hard history and current and controversial civics lessons.
- Sponsoring important programs for adults and the public that promote democratic civic engagement, acceptance, and anti-racism.
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion among those in our own organization and continuing to build productive partnerships with other organizations that honor human rights, equity, and respect for all.

The power of civics education is to teach young people and the public about how "we the people" can make positive change, joining together for the common good. We will continue to support (and seek to increase our capacity to support) NH educators as they teach the skills, knowledge, and attitudes of effective citizenship. For our constitutional democracy to function, individuals and groups need to be able to come together across differences to solve thorny and persistent problems. At NH Civics, we seek to be more inclusive in order to grow our state's capacity to come together in this way. With reflection, respect, and empathy we can work together to find these solutions. With civic learning comes civic strength.

*The Trustees and Staff of the NH Institute for Civics Education*

