CIVIC ED. IN THE NEWS

Last Thursday, a U.S. District Court judge heard arguments for the civic education lawsuit Rhode Island students are filing against the state. The executive director for Columbia University’s Center for Education Equity, Michael Rebell, is representing the students as they pressure education officials to guarantee students a more robust preparation for civic life. One student mused, "The lawyers who work for the Rhode Island Department of Education [kept repeating] that education is not a right [. . .] It’s kind of scary that people responsible for running our education believe that."

In EdWeek's "Math: The Most Powerful Civics Lesson You've Never Had," Indiana educator Allison Strole outlines how she engages her students in quantitative civic literacy. Preparing her students to shape policy, Strole teaches them to analyze patterns in political data, calculate costs of proposals and write memos to elected officials detailing their concerns and suggestions.

In one of the nation’s least civically active states, Floridian lawmakers have filed bipartisan legislation in hopes of inspiring the next generation of civic leaders. House Bill 581 would create state standards for a service learning practicum aligned with the state’s U.S. government curricula. Campuses which successfully complete the practicum through criteria determined by the State Board of Education would gain the distinction of "Freedom Schools."

Welcome to the December edition of the TXCER Newsletter! Stay connected to the latest in civic education through this month’s announcements:

1. On Dec. 9, the Children's Defense Fund - Texas released a new report finding that low youth voter turnout isn’t an accident. Read on to learn about Texas state policies that have hindered diverse young voters, as well as resources for civics educators and advocates.

2. This Thursday and Friday, Texas Civil Rights Project is hosting their 2019 Take Back the Vote convening in Houston. Register here.

3. The Law-Related Education Annual Conference, geared towards educators and administrators, will take place January 24-25 in Austin. This year’s theme is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." Registration is now open.

4. Click here to add someone to or unsubscribe from our mailing list. Want to see your announcement in next month’s TXCER Newsletter? Contact Maggie Stern at mstern@childrensdefense.org.