

# Archived Information

## CIVIC EDUCATION

**Goal: To enhance the attainment of the third and sixth National Education Goals by educating students about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.**

**Relationship of Program to Volume 1, Department-wide Objectives:** The “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” Program for civic education supports Objective 1.1 (States develop challenging standards) of the Strategic Plan. The program funds the Center for Civic Education to teach students about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States and foster civic competence and responsibility.

FY 2000—\$9,850,000

FY 2001—\$9,850,000 (Requested budget)

OBJECTIVE 1: PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULA TO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH THE “WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION” PROGRAM.

**Indicator 1.1 Student participation in the “We the People...” Program: The total number of adoptions of “We the People...” curriculum will increase annually.**

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>The total number of adoptions by states and large school districts of the “We the People...” curriculum has reached 19 as of the end of summer 1999.</i>			<p><b>Status:</b> Target met.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The “We the People...” Program’s staff members have invested more time in assisting states and school districts in the formal curriculum adoption process.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Annual grantee project report and annual grant application, 1999. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> 2000.</p> <p><b>Validation Procedure:</b> Actual count of adoptions.</p> <p><b>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> None.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1996:	1			
1997:	4			
1998:	9			
<b>1999:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>No target set</b>		
2000:		20		
2001:		21		
2002:		22		

**Indicator 1.2 Teacher institutes: The number of teachers who attend the summer “We the People...” professional development institutes will increase annually.**

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>The number of teachers participating in professional development institutes in the summer of 1999 was 317.</i>			<p><b>Status:</b> Target exceeded.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The “We the People...” Program staff members were able to conduct institutes in each of five regions of the United States.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Annual grantee project report and annual grant application, 1999. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> 2000.</p> <p><b>Validation Procedure:</b> Actual count of teacher participants.</p> <p><b>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> None.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1998:	183			
<b>1999:</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>200</b>		
2000:		318		
2001:		320		
2002:		320		

OBJECTIVE 2: FOSTER STUDENTS' INTEREST AND ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE COMPETENTLY AND RESPONSIBLY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p><b>Status:</b> Target exceeded.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Survey items were taken from three sources: the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress Civics assessment, the 1998 University of Michigan's "Monitoring the Future" survey, and the 1998 UCLA American freshman survey. An item-by-item comparison was conducted, and at least 89 percent of the participants in the "We the People..." finals outperformed the average of nonparticipating students in knowledge of and support for democratic institutions and processes by statistically significant margins on every item of a survey instrument, based on previous nationally administered surveys.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Annual random sample of participants in the "We the People..." national finals.</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Annually.</p> <p><i>Next Update:</i> 2000.</p> <p><b>Validation Procedure:</b> The National Assessment of Educational Progress, University of Michigan, and UCLA survey results have been validated by National Center for Education Statistics and other nationally recognized research institutions. The Center for Civic Education utilizes its own internal review procedures in conducting its survey of the participants in the national finals and in analyzing the results.</p> <p><b>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> Data are self-reported. The Center for Civic Education would like to utilize an external data collection agency to conduct its surveys and prepare independent reports, but additional funding would be required to support external evaluation.</p>
1999:	89%	80%		
2000:		80%		
2001:		80%		
2002:		80%		

<p><b>KEY STRATEGIES</b></p> <p><u>Strategies Continued from 1999</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Participate in planning and administering the annual national hearings and student competition for "We the People..." in Washington, D.C.</li> <li>❖ Increase awareness of civic education through ED public information vehicles.</li> </ul> <p><u>New or Strengthened Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To increase awareness of the value of civic education among educators, disseminate information about the "We the People..." Program through program coordinators and publications, and conduct targeted outreach to tribally controlled schools and teachers.</li> <li>❖ To increase student knowledge of civics, work collaboratively with the Department of Justice to support the development or revision of curriculum materials on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Facilitate collaboration between the Center for Civic Education and Center for Educational Technologies in the development of DVD and Internet access to these materials.</li> <li>❖ To strengthen accountability, encourage the Center for Civic Education to update its survey with the most recent publicly released items from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, University of Michigan, and University of California (UCLA) civics assessments.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>HOW THIS PROGRAM COORDINATES WITH OTHER FEDERAL ACTIVITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The "We the People..." program activities have been used as models for civic education in many other countries, especially emerging democracies, through "Civitas: An International Civic Education Exchange." The Civitas Program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Educators in at least 16 countries have translated the materials.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING PROGRAM GOAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Insufficient preprogram teacher preparation in civics and government makes the task of teaching about the American constitutional system more difficult.</li> </ul>
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**INDICATOR CHANGES****From FY 1999 Annual Plan (two years old)**

Adjusted—None.

Dropped—None.

**From FY 2000 Annual Plan (last year's)**Adjusted

- ❖ The performance data for last year's Indicator 1.1 was modified to clarify that the cumulative total number of adoptions is being measured. The indicator itself did not change. Last year's indicator read: "At least 80 percent of sampled students in participating classes will have increased their knowledge of and support for democratic institutions and processes."
- ❖ Indicator 2.1 was modified to align the indicator with Objective 2 and to clarify the comparison actually being made by the Center for Civic Education.
- ❖ Note that the "Source" for Objective 2.1 has been corrected to "annual random sample of participating classes at the 'We the People...' national finals."

Dropped—None.

New—None.