

# We Need Every Student to Be Civic Life Ready.

## How Do We Get There?

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Understanding Boston Forum, May 18, 2017



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# School's Civic Mission Remains, Society's Demands Are Shifting



*“If we do not prepare children to become good citizens ... then our republic must go down to destruction, as others have gone before it”*

*—Horace Mann*

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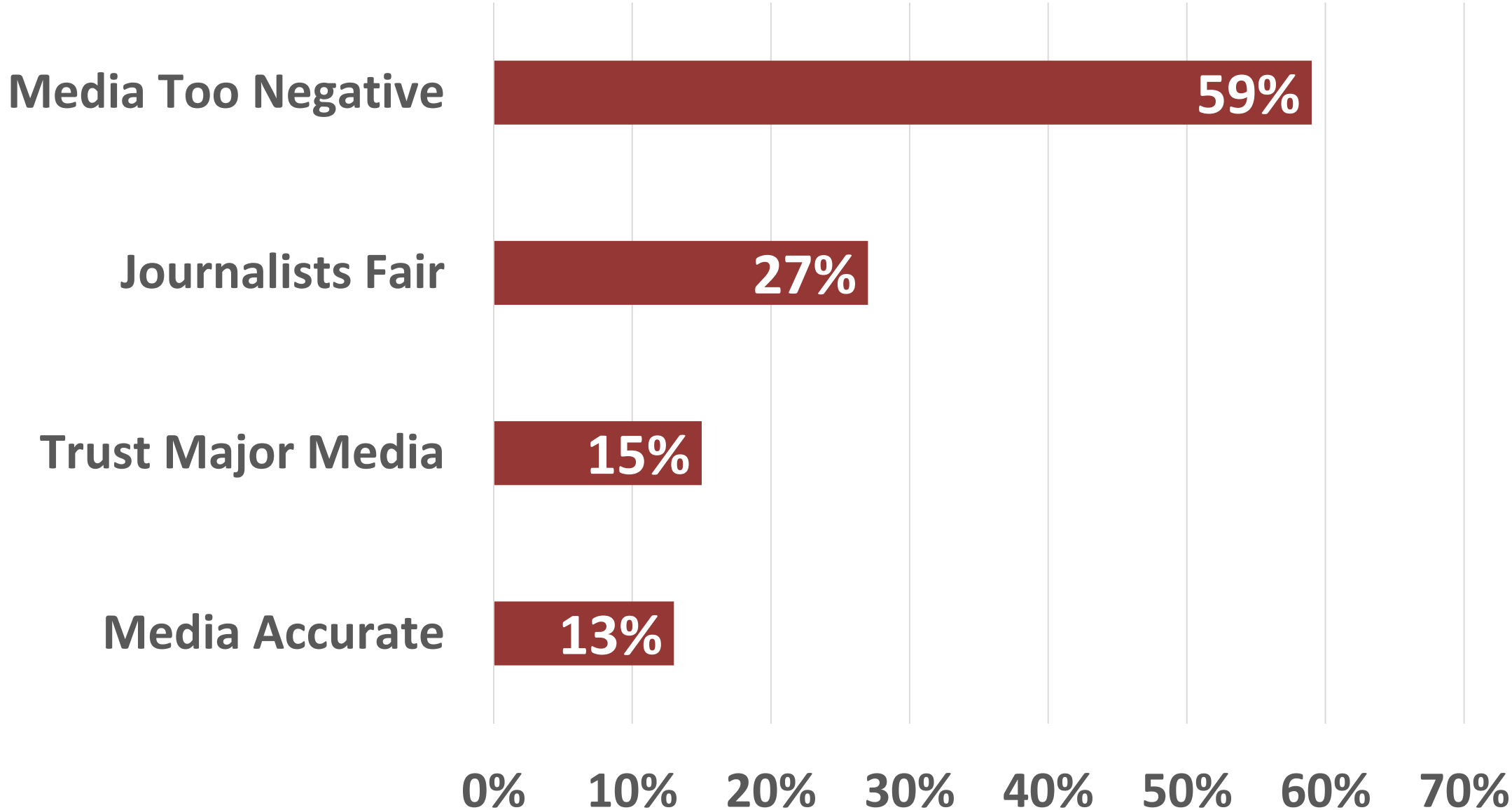
# A New Era for Civic Education

The world demands more informed, critical, and ethical citizens, but myriad challenges stand in the way:

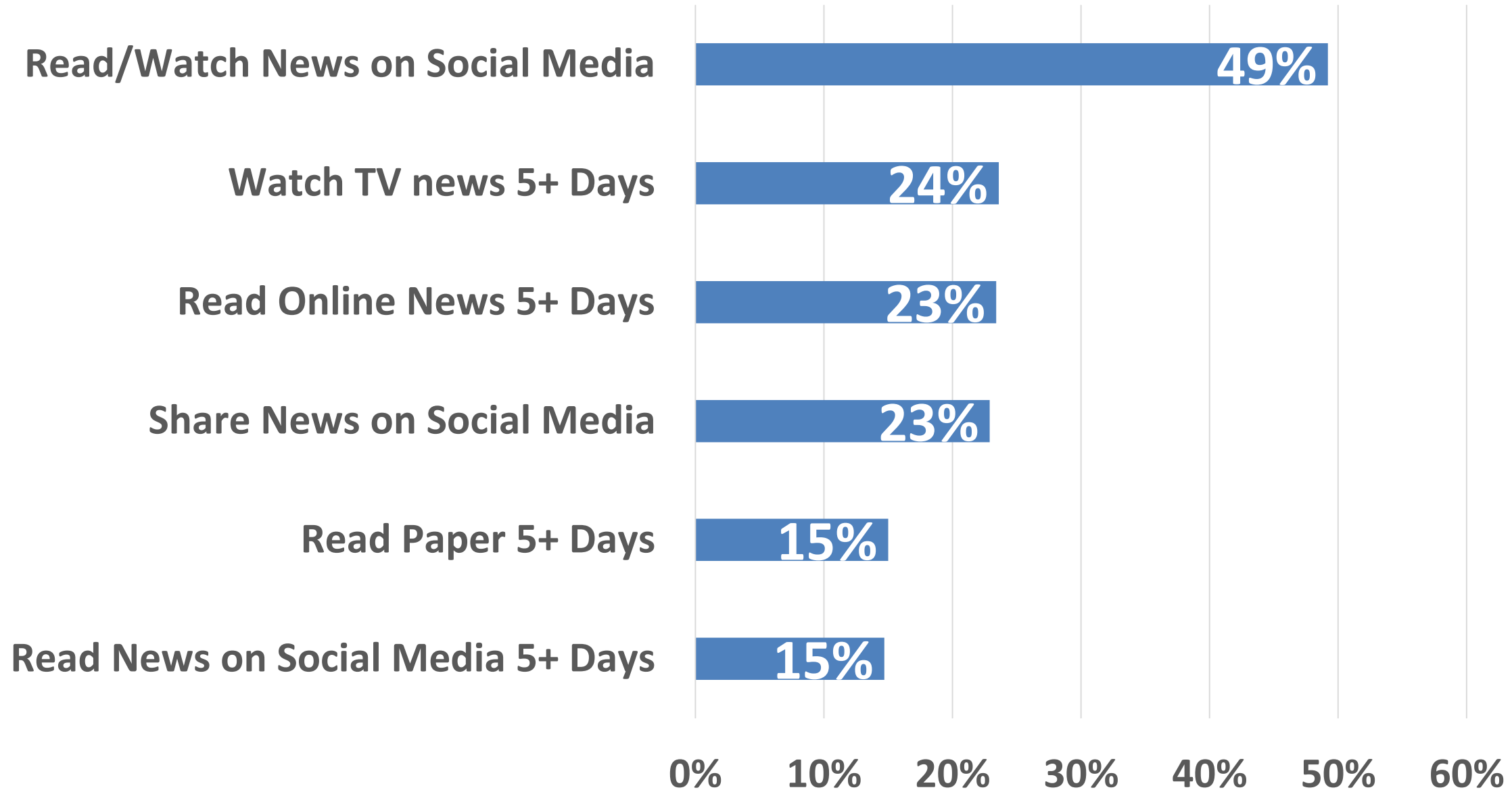
- ❖ Political Polarization
- ❖ Eroding Trust
- ❖ Changing “News”
- ❖ Civic Alienation in Civic Deserts



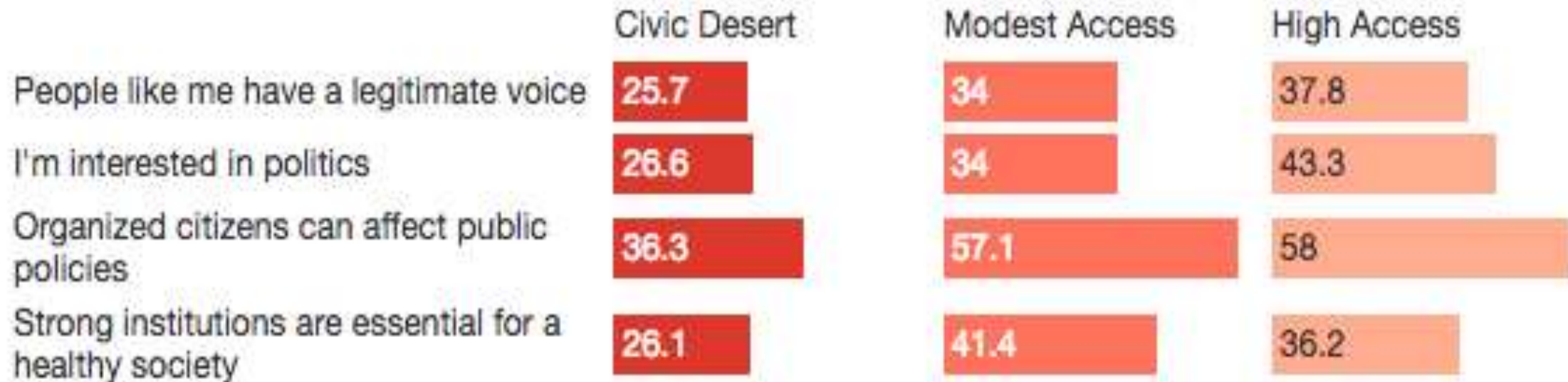
# Millennials Distrust Mainstream Media



# Where Millennials Get Their News



# Youth In “Civic Deserts” Are Alienated From Civic Life



# What can we do to address these challenges?



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# Key Challenges

- ❖ Teachers need more support
- ❖ Opportunities and achievement gaps accumulate

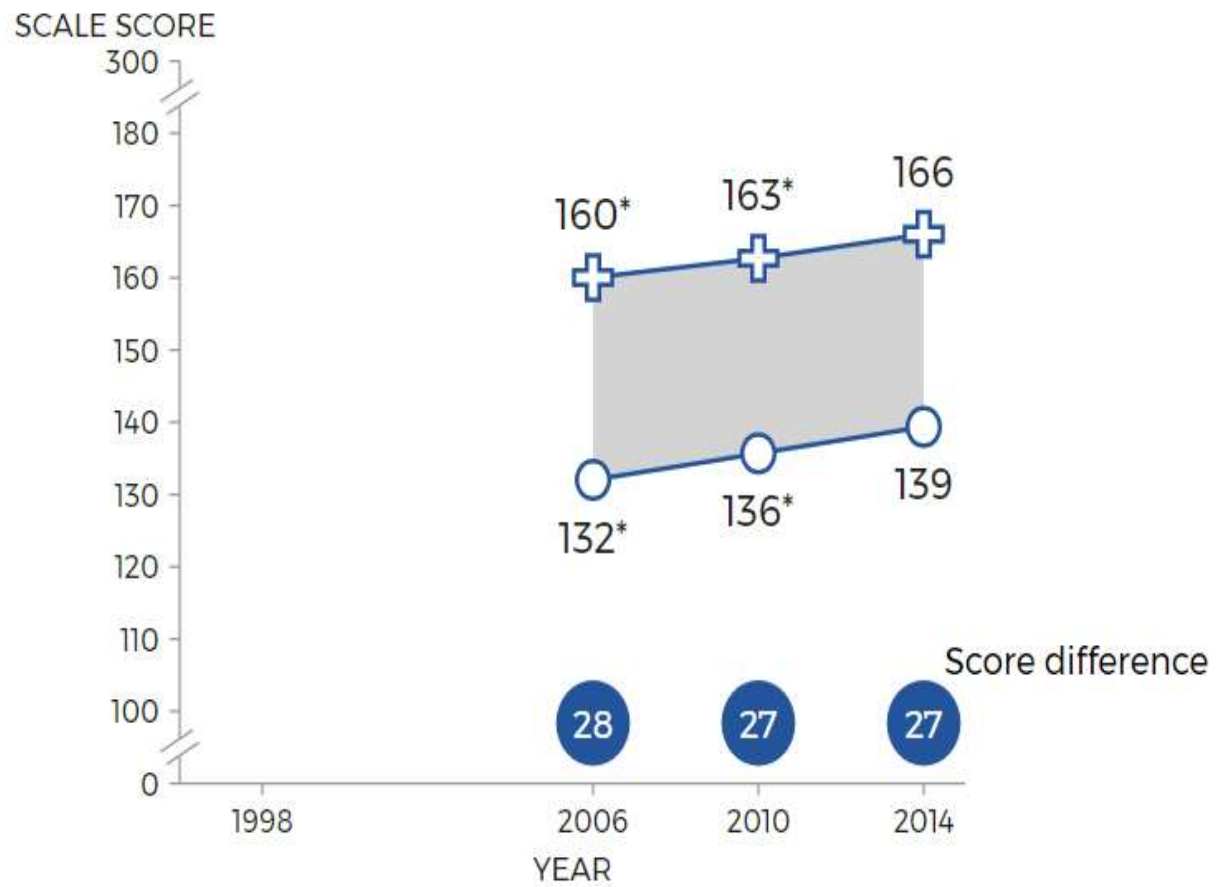


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# Gaps in Civics Achievement by Family Income



- + Not eligible for NSLP
- Eligible for NSLP
- Statistically significant

\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2014.





General Greene  
Elementary School



Mikva Challenge

# Best Practices Work



USA Today



New York Daily News

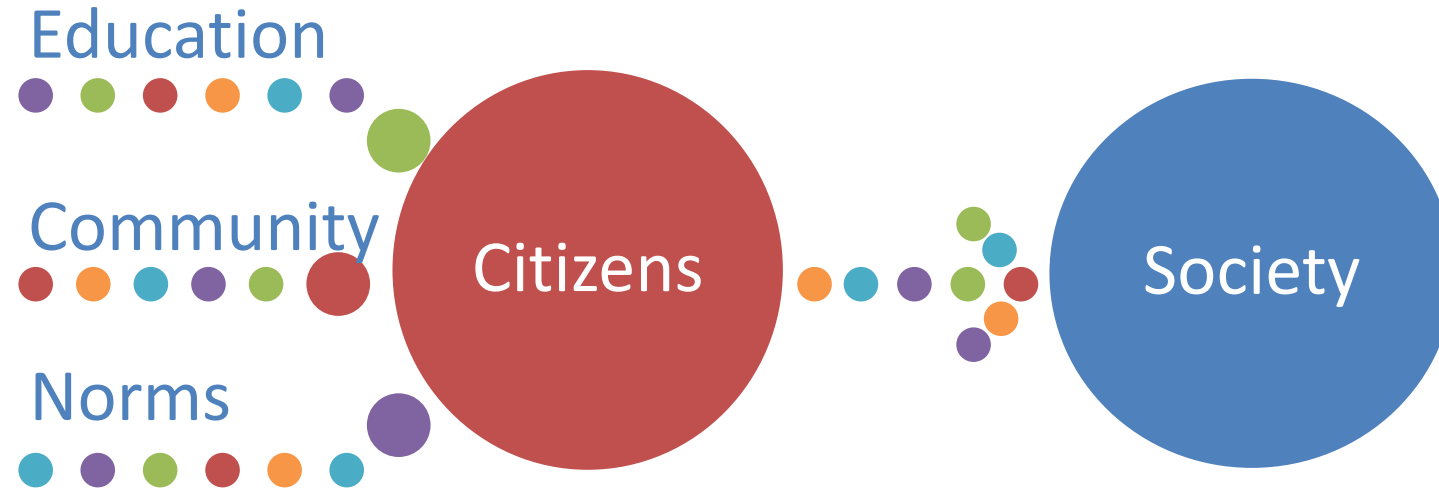
# State-level Legislation

## Stories from Illinois—

- ❖ Strong community support key
- ❖ A menu of best practices to choose from
- ❖ Regional training and mentoring
- ❖ No test, but a standalone course required
- ❖ Supported by philanthropy and corporate sponsorship



# Bolster Systems of Support for Civic Learning



- ❖ K-12 civic education
- ❖ Museums and community orgs.
- ❖ Family & peer norms
- ❖ College and universities
- ❖ Neighborhoods
- ❖ Positive school climate
- ❖ Policies





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**[activecitizen.tufts.edu](http://activecitizen.tufts.edu)**



**[civicyouth.org](http://civicyouth.org)**