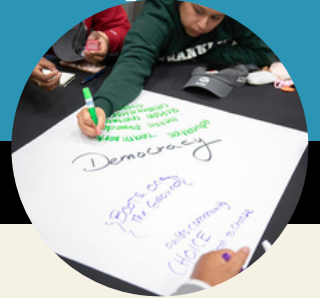


Free Training, Civic Research, Real Impact: Discover SLICE

Now Recruiting Sites for 2026 - 2027



Young people are the future of democracy.

Yet trust in democratic institutions is at an all-time low. Educators are uniquely positioned to help students build the skills, confidence, and sense of agency needed for civic participation and democratic engagement.

The skills that strengthen democracy also prepare students for success beyond school. "Preparing students for work, for citizenship, and for lifelong growth are not competing aims but rather mutually reinforcing." (Sigelman, 2026)

For more than 40 years, NYLC has helped schools develop those skills through service-learning, youth leadership, and youth voice. Through SLICE (Service-Learning in Civic Education), NYLC is partnering with public high schools nationwide to study how high-quality service-learning supports democracy.

What is SLICE?

The **Service-Learning in Civic Education (SLICE)** study is a national initiative documenting how high quality service-learning shapes democratic beliefs and civic participation among young people.

Sites

NYLC partners with public high schools and across the U.S. to implement service-learning in at least three core classes (i.e. not a separate service-learning or leadership class), over the entire school year- with full (virtual) training and support provided at no cost to your school. (OST programs considered on a case by case basis.)

Evaluation

Participation is straightforward. Educators and students complete brief surveys at the start and end of each semester or trimester. A University of Minnesota research team will conduct interviews and focus groups (optional).

Impact

Your school helps build a national model that will shape how K-12 schools support young people as informed, active participants in democracy- here and internationally.

What Educators Gain

- ✓ **Free Professional Development**
High quality NYLC training with clock hours toward state licensure requirements, at no cost to you or your school.
- ✓ **A National Educator Community**
Join a virtual network of educators nationwide who are doing this work, sharing what's working, and building something together.
- ✓ **Student Success**
Give your students hands-on, community-connected learning backed by decades of evidence — and watch engagement follow.
- ✓ **Shape the Field**
Your classroom helps define best practices for democratic education that will influence schools here and abroad. This is more than participation - it's leadership.

Thank you, sponsor and partners:

FREUDENBERG
STIFTUNG



Now Recruiting Schools for 2026 - 2027

School Eligibility Requirements

- **District Liaison** - to coordinate participation with NYLC and navigate any required district approval processes.
- At least **5 "Opt-In" Teachers - teaching core curricular classes (not stand-alone leadership or service-learning classes)** who will implement NYLC's pedagogy to reach academic outcomes in at least one class each semester or trimester.
- **Control Group Teachers** - an equal number of teachers who teach similar classes without service-learning.
- At least one **Building Administrator** to participate in training and support Opt-In teachers as needed.
- **Buy-in** from the team to complete study elements.

2026-27 Timeline

- **Spring/Summer 2026** - Coordinate participation with NYLC and navigate any required district approval processes to achieve a signed MOU. Begin recruitment of teachers.
- **Summer 2026** - Teachers and classes identified. Virtual Educator Institute (2-3 days) takes place within normal PD schedule.
- **Fall/Winter 2026** - Parent Consent for student participation, pre-surveys completed by students. Post-surveys completed at the end of the term.
- **Winter/Spring 2027** - Parent Consent for student participation, and pre-surveys completed by students. Post-surveys completed at the end of the term. Focus groups and interviews held. District data requested for participating classes.
- **Spring/Summer 2027** - Analysis and planning for 2027-28. Report provided.

Roles & Responsibilities at a Glance

Task/Role	District Liaison	Control Teachers	Opt-In Teachers	Building Admin	Students
Complete Educator Consent Form and pre- and post-survey	—	✓	✓	—	—
Facilitate collection of parent consent forms for students 1x per semester	—	✓	✓	—	—
Complete online survey 2x per semester (pre and post)	—	✓	✓	—	✓
Participate in: 3-day Educator Institute, monthly Community of Practice sessions, Quarterly Deep Dive trainings	—	—	✓	✓	—
Implement Service-Learning into one class per semester	—	✓	—	—	—
Participate in spring interview or focus group (optional)	✓	—	✓	✓	✓

