

Massachusetts Civics Project Showcases: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the dates and locations of the 2025 Massachusetts Civics Project Showcases?

This year, DESE will host four regional Civics Project Showcases in partnership with Generation Citizen. All events will run from 9am-1pm. Dates and locations are listed below:

- **Dartmouth:** UMass Dartmouth, **Tuesday, May 27**
- **Springfield:** MassMutual Center, **Wednesday, May 28**
- **Worcester:** DCU Center, **Monday, June 2**
- **Boston:** Edward M. Kennedy Institute, **Friday, June 6**

2. How do districts/schools register for the Showcases?

Registration is now open [here](#)! The deadline for registration is March 15 (priority deadline: February 15).

There are two options for registration:

- **Registering as a district:** Districts that anticipate bringing students from multiple schools to a Showcase may register with a district-wide contact to coordinate transportation and the selection of student participants.
- **Registering as an individual school:** If only one school is attending from a district, there is only one school in your district, or if district-level coordination is not possible in your setting, schools may register as an individual school with a school-based contact.

3. Can any school/district attend any Showcase?

Yes, students from any school or district can attend any event. However, to ensure that all events remain at capacity, schools/districts will need to **rank their location preferences during registration**. Schools/districts will be given priority if they apply by the priority deadline (February 15) as well as based on their proximity to the event and the space available.

4. What are the relevant deadlines and dates that I need to know about?

February 15	Priority registration deadline for transportation funding and location preference
March 15	Registration deadline
Mid-late March	Schools/districts receive confirmation of Showcase location and transportation funding (if applicable)
April 14	Deadline to submit transportation booking information
May 20	Deadline to share participating student information
Late May-Early June	Showcases

June 20	Deadline to submit transportation invoices
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5. Is there funding available for transportation?

Yes, apply by the priority deadline (February 15) for transportation funding. If the need for transportation reimbursement is greater than we accommodate, we will make decisions based on school/district proximity to the Showcase event and percentage of high-needs students served.

Schools/districts should make the transportation booking themselves. However, following the event, you may either request reimbursement for transportation costs that have been paid or have our event services vendor remit payment directly.

6. Who can participate in the Civics Project Showcases?

All 8th-12th grade public school students in Massachusetts are eligible to participate in the Civics Project Showcases. Students must be completing a student-led civics project as part of their classwork. **Students from any district may attend any regional Showcase.**

7. How many students can participate from each school/district?

Districts (or schools registering individually) should refer to the following chart to determine the number of project teams (1-4 students each) they will likely be able to bring. DESE may reach out to contacts for more information to make final determinations and will confirm the number of project teams allocated to each district following registration.

Number of students district-wide in a given grade level (e.g. 8th grade):	Estimated number of project teams (1-4 students each) your district may bring to the Showcase at that grade level:
Under 300 students	Two project teams
301-500 students	Three project teams
501-700 students	Four project teams
700+ students	Five project teams

8. How are students selected to participate in the Civics Project Showcases?

Participating districts/schools will determine their own process for selecting students to participate in a Civics Project Showcase. Most districts host a school-wide or district-wide

showcase in May and select students to participate based on their performance in these local events. DESE will share resources throughout the semester to support districts interested in hosting local showcases.

9. What will the Civics Project Showcases be like? What is the schedule for the day?

We recommend watching this [video](#) from last year for a sense of what the events will be like. In short, it's like a science fair for civics! During the event, community advisors will circulate and have short, structured conversations with students about their projects. Community advisors are local legislators, subject matter experts, educators and others who are interested in learning about student work and sharing their feedback. In addition, this year, we will have a section of the day devoted to students sharing their projects with each other.

Each event will last from approximately **9am-1pm**. Lunch will be provided for all students and chaperones.

10. Is there a rubric that community advisors will use during the event? Can this rubric be used in the classroom?

Community advisors will use the rubric posted on the [DESE website](#) to guide their feedback during the event. Teachers are welcome to adapt this document for classroom use and/or use it during local showcase events.

11. What feedback and/or recognition will students receive for their work?

In the week following the event, chaperones will receive a compilation of written feedback for their students from community advisors. This feedback is not a "grade," but rather will focus on the strengths of student work, areas of improvement, and ideas for students to consider as they move forward with their projects.

Community advisors will also have an opportunity to nominate student projects for "commendations" based on areas of excellence in student projects. Students will receive notice of these commendations along with the written feedback. There will not be an awards ceremony on the day of the event.

12. I have a question that wasn't answered. How can I get additional information?

For additional questions about the Showcase events, please reach out to Faith Carbon at fcarbon@generationcitizen.org. If you have questions relevant to DESE specifically, please email Rebekah Judson at rebekah.m.judson@mass.gov.