

# Developing Teachers, Transforming Students, Strengthening Schools

Mikva Challenge develops the next generation of civic leaders, activists, and policymakers by providing young people with opportunities to actively participate in the political process. Our Action Civics offerings can take place during school, within the extended school day, after school, during inter session, or over the summer.

## ■ Mikva increases student engagement and retention

- Mikva participants are more likely to have better grades, better attendance, and feel more bonded to school than their peers

*"I used to feel like I just attended this school; now I feel it is MY school!"*  
– Chicago student

## ■ Mikva prepares students to be successful beyond high school

- Mikva alumni are far more likely to graduate high school than their CPS peers
- Mikva alumni are far more likely to attend college than their CPS peers

*"I feel like I am more powerful now that I am politically active, because America's future is practically in the palm of my hands. I've never felt like I had any say in politics until now."* – Chicago student

## ■ Mikva improves teacher pedagogy and practice

*"Mikva changed my life, changed how I teach, and, consequently, made what I do in the classroom meaningful and relevant."*  
– Chicago teacher

*"Mikva helped me bring passion to the classroom. I have developed so many activities and projects that are student centered because of the curriculum binders and professional development."* – Chicago teacher

## ■ Mikva renews teachers' passion for teaching

*"I am reminded why I became a teacher."* – Chicago teacher



# Mikva's Activism Tracks

There are two Mikva Activism tracks: Issues to Action and Democracy in Action. Chicago educators from either track are eligible to participate in the Mikva Challenge Activism Program.

## Issues to Action

### Curriculum

*Issues to Action* is Mikva's six step process for youth activism. Students examine their communities, identify issues of importance to them, conduct intensive primary research, analyze power, develop strategies, and take action to impact policy while reflecting on the process throughout. *Issues to Action* can be integrated into existing curricula or used for extra-curricular enrichment.



### Professional Development

One-day *Issues to Action* professional development workshop

\$250 /educator

## Democracy in Action

### Curriculum

*Democracy in Action* is a standards aligned, comprehensive civics course built around the Issues to Action framework. It provides detailed and adaptable lesson plans, supplementary readings, and unit assessments. It focuses on building literacy and critical thinking skills in the context of the Issues to Action framework.



### Professional Development

Two-day *Democracy in Action* professional development workshop

\$500 /educator



### Activism Program

- Ongoing professional development
- Ongoing classroom support
- Online resource library
- Citywide youth events



# Mikva's Elections in Action Tracks

There are two Mikva Election tracks: Campaigns in Action and Student Judges. Chicago educators from either track are eligible to participate in the Mikva Challenge Elections Program.

## Campaigns in Action

### Curriculum

*Elections in Action* enables young people to learn about the electoral process through critically analyzing candidates' platforms, identifying their own political ideologies, and volunteering for political campaigns.



### Professional Development

*Elections in Action* curriculum orientation

**\$50** /educator



## Student Judges

### Facilitator Guide

Student Judges enables high school juniors and seniors from across Chicago to learn about the voting process by serving as election judges and helping to run an actual polling place on Election Day.



### Facilitator Training

Student Judges facilitator orientation

**Free!** /educator

### Elections in Action Program

- Ongoing professional development
- Ongoing classroom support
- Online resource library
- Citywide youth events



## Mikva's Other Opportunities

There are several other ways to participate in Mikva's service offerings.

### Peace and Leadership Councils

Mikva Challenge staff facilitate 90-120 minute sessions with 15-20 students representing a cross-section of the student body. The youth receive intensive leadership training while researching issues in their schools, developing recommendations to address safety and academic issues, and collaborating with administrators to improve school culture. PLC sessions can take place within the **extended school day**, after school, during intersession, or over the summer.

**\$9,000** for 25 Mikva facilitated weekly sessions (includes student stipends)

**\$18,000** for 50 Mikva facilitated weekly sessions (includes student stipends)

Mikva Challenge can also train your staff to facilitate their own Peace and Leadership Council.



### Dynamic Instructional Strategies Professional Development

Mikva Challenge staff facilitate a one day workshop that models and teaches dynamic instructional strategies and classroom management techniques for building a positive classroom community, supporting effective student collaboration, and developing youth voice in the classroom.

- 1-day professional development workshop
- Resource guide
- Online resource library

**Costs Vary** according to staff size

# Join Mikva Challenge

Getting involved with Mikva is easy. Just give us a call or e-mail us and we will guide you through the process of selecting the most appropriate program(s) for your students, staff, and school community. Three recommended program combinations follow:

## Option 1

### Democracy in Action

Curriculum and professional development for 3 teachers

### Elections in Action

Curriculum and professional development for 2 teachers

**\$1,600**

## Option 2

### Democracy in Action

Curriculum and professional development for 3 teachers

### Elections in Action

Curriculum and professional development for 2 teachers

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**Dynamic Instructional Strategies  
Professional Development**

**\$5,000- \$9,500**

## Option 3

### Democracy in Action

Curriculum and professional development for 3 teachers

### Elections in Action

Curriculum and professional development for 2 teachers

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**Dynamic Instructional Strategies  
Professional Development**

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**50-week After School Peace and  
Leadership Program**

**\$22,500-\$27,500**

