



# WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

Supporting Students with Disabilities and English Learners



Center for Civic Education



civiced.org

cerl.georgetown.edu

## OVERVIEW

The Center for Civic Education’s **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution (WTP)** curricular program prepares students for informed, thoughtful, and productive citizenship. The James Madison Legacy Project Expansion (JMLPE), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, provided immersive professional learning with curricular materials tailored for teachers to instruct WTP with middle and high school students with disabilities and English learners. The Civic Education Research Lab (CERL) at Georgetown University conducted an independent evaluation of the JMLPE student outcomes.

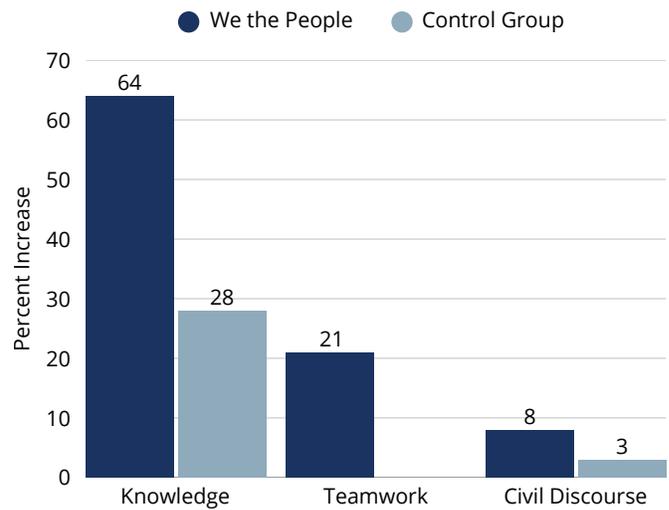
## RESEARCH FINDINGS

**Students with disabilities’ civic knowledge and skills increased significantly after participating in We the People.** Control group students did not see the same gains.

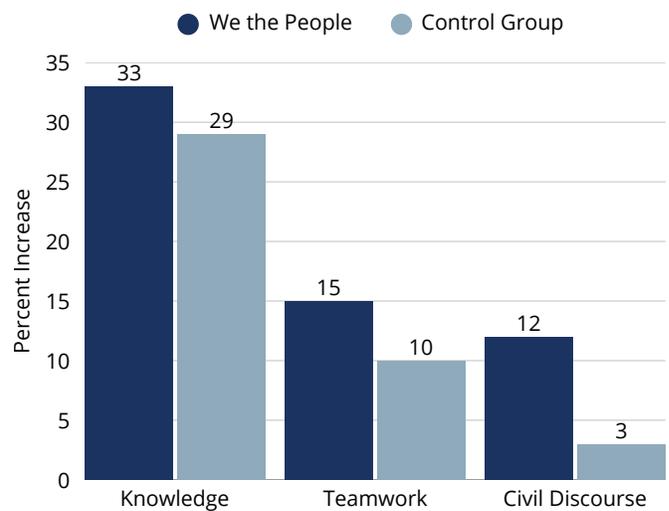


## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

### MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVIC SKILLS



### HIGH SCHOOL CIVIC SKILLS



Pictured front and back: 2025 WTP National Finals. WTP students participate in a simulated congressional hearing, an authentic performance assessment, as part of the curriculum.



**English learners' civic knowledge and skills increased significantly after participating in We the People.** Control group students did not see the same gains.

## WE THE PEOPLE CIVIC KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

CERL conducted randomized controlled trials (RCTs), surveying students before and after their participation in the WTP curriculum or a traditional civics course (control group). CERL evaluated improvements in students' civic knowledge and skills:

01

### Civic Knowledge

Understanding the U.S. Constitution, how government and political systems function, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

02

### Teamwork & Collaboration Skills

Working cooperatively to solve problems and advocating on behalf of a cause.

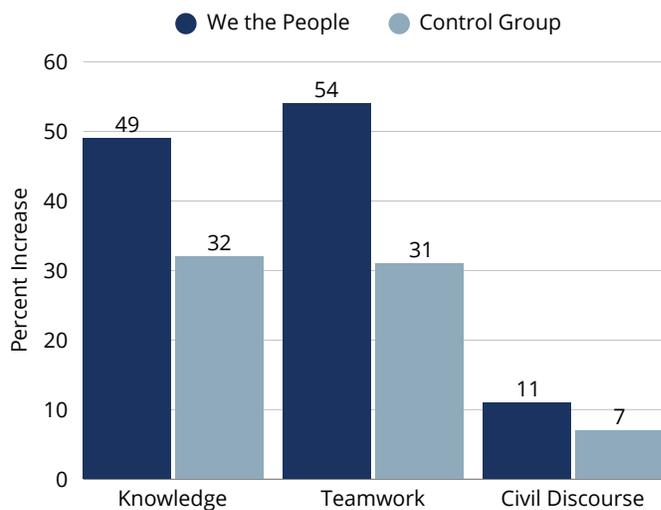
03

### Civil Discourse & Communications Skills

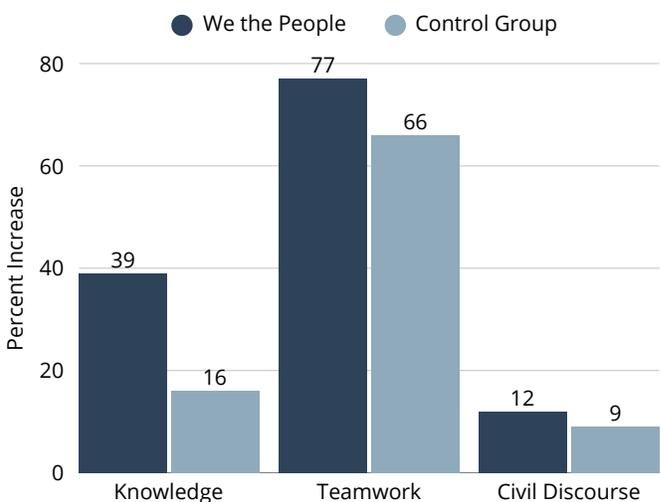
Listening to and processing diverse views on issues, speaking openly, and expressing opinions, in an effort to find common ground.

## ENGLISH LEARNERS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVIC SKILLS



### HIGH SCHOOL CIVIC SKILLS



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