



# James Madison Legacy Project CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education



The James Madison Legacy Project (JMLP) provides professional development based on the Center for Civic Education’s *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* curriculum to middle and high school teachers of high-need students nationwide, including those in Title I schools. Over 2,000 teachers and 80,000 students have participated in the JMLP since its inception in 2015. The goals of the JMLP are to improve teachers’ civics, social studies, and American government content knowledge and to enhance their classroom pedagogy. As a result of the JMLP, the civic knowledge and dispositions of students in participating teachers’ *We the People* classes increased markedly. The JMLP is funded by a Supporting Effective Educator Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

## STUDENT KNOWLEDGE

To assess gains in student knowledge, researchers at Georgetown University tested students’ civic knowledge at the start of the *We the People* class and after its completion. The scores of JMLP middle and high school students nationally improved significantly.

**63%**

improvement in  
middle school  
students’ scores

**78%**

improvement in  
high school  
students’ scores

## STUDENT CIVIC DISPOSITIONS

The study examined the extent to which students acquired civic dispositions—the commitment to democratic ideals, the development of a sense of public duty, and an inclination to participate in civic life. Students reported that their sense of civic responsibility increased as a result of taking a *We the People* class.

**69%** of middle school and **73%** of high school students reported that they pay more attention to what’s going on in government and politics.

**72%** of middle school and **77%** of high school students felt that they are more prepared to become involved in their community.

**64%** of middle school students and **68%** of high school students believed that it is very important to turn out to vote. Over **90%** felt that it was at least somewhat important to vote.