

Program: KIDS VOTING USA

Population Served:

Size: 457 student-parent pairs

Age: Students from 5th – 12th grade

Other Characteristics: Students in San Jose, California schools

Program Components:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Provided by</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description</u>
Students practiced skills of citizenship with the help of community volunteers	School	6 weeks	Learned how to register voters, held mock elections, and compiled information about electoral issues
Dissected political ads			
Analyzed political positions			
Participated in issue debates			
Held a convention and mock vote			

Program Objectives/Goals:

To provide students with political information, including instruction on how to register a person to vote, how to organize information for electoral decisions, how to find out the positions of different candidates on issues, why political parties are formed, and the history of the franchise in the United States.

Study:

McDevitt, M., & Chaffee, S. (2000). Closing gaps in political communication and knowledge: Effects of a school intervention. *Communication Research*, 27, 259-292.

Study Objectives and Measurements:

Objective:

To examine the implications of the program for children, as well as to see the effects of the program on their parents.

Measurement instrument:

In-person interviews and questionnaires were used before the election to test all questions. Data were collected after the election via phone interviews with students and parents regarding their political knowledge.

Evaluation:

Type: Quasi-experimental

Statistical techniques: Multiple regressions

Population evaluated: Students and their parents (some parent-child pairs participated in the program and some were assigned to the control group); 457 parent-children pairs

Outcome:

The curriculum was associated with significant increases in attention to news, particularly students' newspaper reading. Student-parent discussion increased, particularly among low-SES families. In low-SES households, parents' election knowledge increased significantly.

Other Information: None.