

# What you need to know:

## Action Civics

### What's action civics?

Action civics encourages students to advocate for political positions through protests, writing letters to politicians, or other methods of activism. Schools sometimes give students credit for their political work.

### What's the issue?

Time spent in the classroom is a zero-sum game. Action civics encourages students to participate in political protest instead of learning history and civics. Action civics prioritizes activism over teaching kids the facts they need to think critically and make up their own minds on political issues.

When they say...	You can say...
<b>Action civics prioritizes student engagement. Shouldn't kids be engaged in politics?</b>	Students should learn about civics, political systems, and government processes before they participate in politically and ideologically charged activities like protests or demand leaders take a particular course of action.
<b>Why can't students have opinions about current events?</b>	K-12 education should focus on learning civics, history, math, and science and fostering critical thinking skills—not indoctrination.
<b>But students want to be involved. Nobody's forcing them.</b>	It is not unusual for students to want to be involved in activities outside the classroom. As adults, it is our job to help students focus on what matters—core subject matters, like history and civics.
<b>Shouldn't kids learn that they can make a difference?</b>	Certainly, but children are best positioned to make meaningful contributions when they have a solid understanding of history, government, and civics.

For more information, check out Parents Defending Education's [map](#).

