



CAPITOL EXPERIENCE DAY

YEAR-END REVIEW

2023
2024



CAPITOL EXPERIENCE DAY

As one of Civic Nebraska's flagship programs, Capitol Experience Day offers hands-on civic engagement to youth and adults across Nebraska. This year, the Capitol Experience Day program served 1,311 participants, more than ever before.

Capitol Experience Day is designed to teach critical thinking, civil discourse, and the governing process through interactive programs and presentations. This daylong deep dive is convened entirely at the Nebraska State Capitol and is a beyond-the-headlines look into how state government works. Participants in the program may tour the Capitol building, meet with elected or appointed officials, practice the art of debate through mock hearings, learn about Nebraska's unique history, and identify how they can work together to build a stronger community through civic leadership. By the end of this day, participants in the Capitol Experience Day program are inspired and empowered to be more active, more engaged citizens.



Lincoln Public Schools is grateful for our partnership with Civic Nebraska to bring local government alive for high school students through the Capitol Experience field trips. As our school district continues to empower students to be civically engaged in their schools and communities, the opportunity to interact with government officials and see local government in action is invaluable to this endeavor. Our students and our community, and quite frankly, our democracy, are better for it!

Jaci Kellison, Lincoln Public Schools



Capitol Experience Day is customizable.

Civic Nebraska can develop specific curriculum tailored to the needs of your group. We are ready to work with educators, specialists, and community leaders to make reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of the age group, individual interest, and or subject matter. This program serves youth, college students, and community groups.

STORIES OF IMPACT

EMPOWERING VOICES IN DEMOCRACY

February 22, 2024

Participants from the Prosper Academy, part of Autism Action in Omaha, had the unique opportunity to engage directly with state leaders during their Capitol Experience Day. The day began with observing a legislative debate and writing letters to Senator George Dungan. Over lunch they had an informal yet impactful discussion with Senator Dungan. Following lunch, the group met with Senator John Cavanaugh, who represents their district in Omaha. The conversation focused on the challenges they face with the bus system. Senator Cavanaugh not only listened to their ideas but also encouraged certain participants to take an active role in their community by running for positions on the Transit Advisory Committee.



Civic Nebraska strives to include underrepresented groups in our democracy by interacting directly with their representatives. Through our partnerships with Lincoln Public Schools and other groups like Autism Action, it ensures that everyone, regardless of background or ability, has the tools and opportunities to participate fully in civic life.

EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Civic Nebraska's partnership with Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) began with Capitol Experience Days as a pilot program for three schools, where all ninth-grade students were required to participate. Due to the program's success, Capitol Experience Days have now transitioned into an optional opportunity available to all LPS members. This collaboration allows students to engage directly with the democratic process to better understand the uniqueness of Nebraska's unicameral Legislature. Additionally, we have streamlined the process by creating customizable agendas and securing legislative hearing rooms through state senators, ensuring an enriching and equitable experience for all students.

CAP DAY IN ACTION



Lincoln North Star High School
October 10, 2023



Learn more about Capitol Experience Day by scanning the QR code!

Arts and Humanities Focus Program
February 12, 2024



Lincoln Northwest High School
March 27, 2024



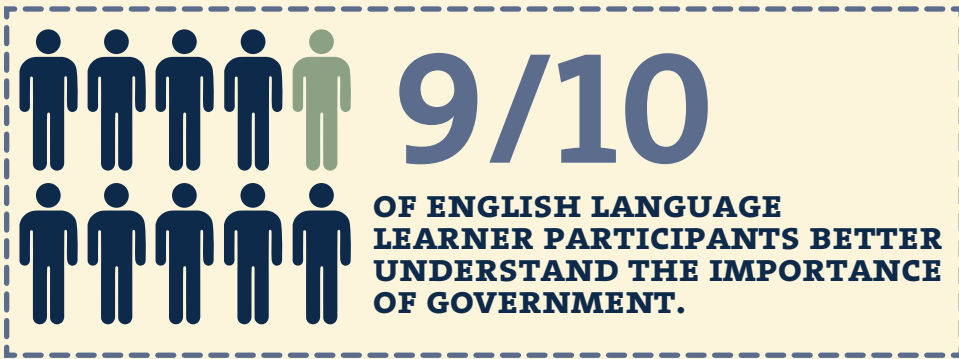
Lincoln Northeast High School
November 30, 2023



OUT OF 1,311 PARTICIPANTS...

8/10

- BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW NEBRASKA'S GOVERNMENT IS UNIQUE.
- BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW.
- LEARNED HOW TO CONTACT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.



THE VALUE OF INCLUDING HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

November 1, 2023

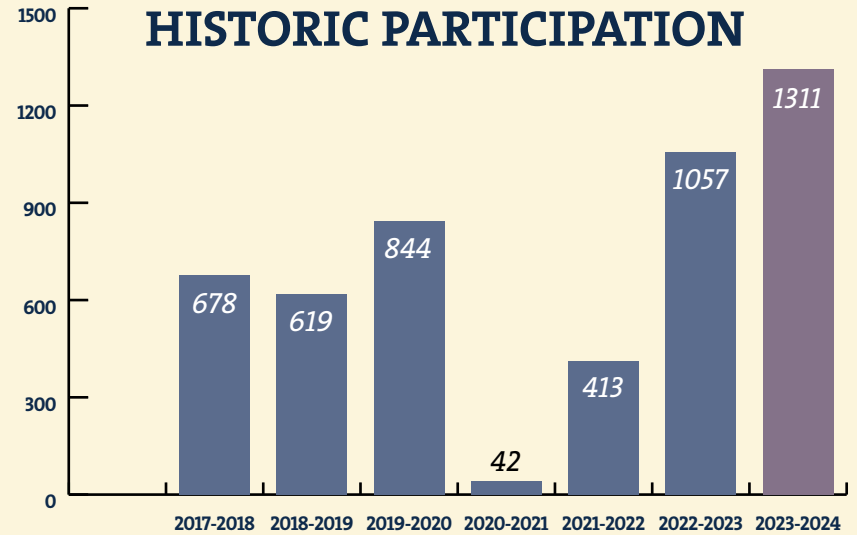
Members of the Karen Society of Nebraska participated in a Capitol Experience Day, with the help of a translator, to engage with their new government. Approximately 5,500 of the Karen people have resettled in Nebraska after fleeing persecution and ethnic cleansing in Burma (Myanmar). This meeting with state representatives highlights the importance of including marginalized groups in civic programs.

The Karen community was welcomed with an Appleseed Award presentation and a greeting from State Senator Rita Sanders, Nebraska's only Asian American representative. They also met with State Senator George Dungan, with whom they discussed their desire to see their identity and Karen holidays formally recognized by the state. In appreciation they presented him with a gong.

A significant moment of the day was the meeting with Governor Jim Pillen, pictured below, who welcomed the Karen community to the state and briefly spoke with the group. In return, the community gifted him a frog drum, a symbol of unity in their culture.



BY THE NUMBERS



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

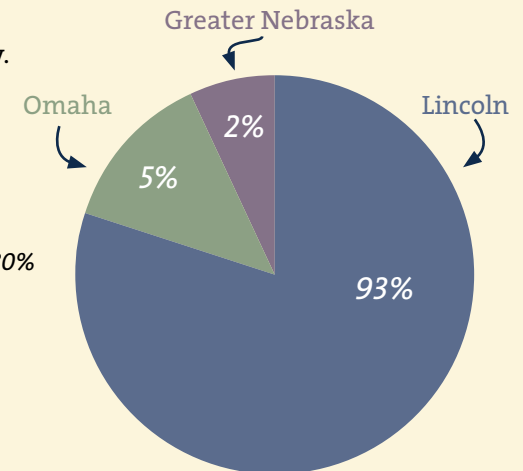
63% Non ELL or ELS Served

37% ELL or ELS Served

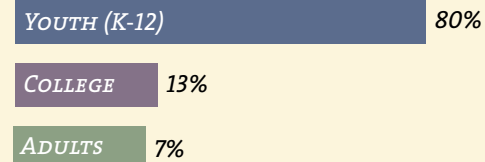
PARTICIPATION IN ARTS

628 participants engaged with the arts during a Capitol Experience Day.

PARTICIPATION BY GEOGRAPHY



PARTICIPATION BY GROUP TYPE



ABOUT

CIVIC NEBRASKA

Civic Nebraska was founded in 2008, and our mission is to create a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans. We envision a democracy where all citizens understand their inherent power and exercise it. Our work is focused on communities and individuals that have been underserved or historically disenfranchised. Our organization is divided into three program areas: Civic Health, Youth Civic Leadership, and Voting Rights. Civic Nebraska is a nonprofit organization that highlights civic engagement, social connectedness, confidence in institutions, and political involvement.

Thank you
Showing us the
Capitol.



THANK YOU

**TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO MAKE
CAPITOL EXPERIENCE DAY POSSIBLE!**