Greetings,

The viability of the Youth Court training and operation is an integral part of a civics and government course or a broader course of study in a secondary school.

The Youth Court supports the Academic Standards for Civics and Government as well as the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. It is a focused, relevant resource which will assist students to become engaged citizens.

Democracy is not something that can be learned entirely from a book. It survives because of the engagement of the citizens in the democratic process. The Youth Court Program and other programs like it, demonstrates the fundamental nature of the rule of law, the principles of government individual rights and responsibilities and of course, civil discourse.

As students progress through the educational system in Pennsylvania, it is important for the stakeholders responsible for guiding their learning to remember the greatest responsibility of education in a democracy is to create contributing engaged citizens. The Youth Court Program and other similarly structured programs are instrumental in helping students in that endeavor. Any school system which can participate in a hands on, practice of democracy will have a bright future in their community and knowledge they are preparing citizens to serve the Republic.

Respectfully,

S, M. Flaherty

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