



Enroll for the current year at www.VotesPA.com/gcea.

When you enroll, we will add you to our mailing list and send updates about the Governor's Civic Engagement Award during the school year. Meanwhile, you can use this quick guide to help you to get started, and you are invited to check out other helpful resources at www.votesPA.com/gcea and <https://www.votespa.com/Resources/Pages/Resource-Center.aspx>.



Build a team of student volunteers.

Collaborate with student organizations and civics teachers to build your team. Voter registration drives offer an important service to students by providing a convenient opportunity to register to vote or update voter registration information. Research has shown it is most meaningful when a peer asks another young person to register to vote. In addition to hosting a table event, it is effective to register students to vote in a classroom setting.

Conduct your school's voter registration drive.

- ☑ Set your goal based on the number of eligible students. See the back of this page for some handy tips to calculate your goal.

In order to register to vote, a student must be:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. A resident of Pennsylvania.
3. At least 18 years old on or before the date of the next election.

- ☑ Plan the logistics of where, when, and how registrations will be collected, counted, and stored.
- ☑ Train student volunteers.
 - ★ Talk to volunteers about how to engage in civil discourse and prepare them to respond to common questions about voting.
 - ★ Registration drives should be nonpartisan. This means that you respect the desired affiliation of any person completing a registration form. You may explain how selecting a party will affect the ability to vote in primary elections.
 - ★ Registration forms must be complete; drive helpers should not add or change information.
 - ★ Keep applications safe and secure—count every one to measure your progress, keep track of them, and do not expose personal information.
 - ★ Students who are not eligible to register may turn in pledge cards.
- ☑ Spread the word! Talk to administrators about announcements at school events, assemblies, and posting information in the school.
- ☑ Remember to turn in paper registration forms to the correct county office by the registration deadline.

Share your success. We want to hear about your experience. Take pictures of your events, and let us know about any press or publicity related to your school. If you qualify, be sure to apply for the GCEA by the deadline at www.VotesPA.com/gcea.



Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application

Benefits of Paper Registration Forms

- + Low-cost for multiple students at once
- + Students can take and return forms at their convenience within the time frame of your drive
- + Easy to count
- + Easy to sign for students without a drivers license or PennDOT ID card
- + Available in multiple languages: either print forms in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese from www.votesPA.com, or request English and Spanish forms in packs of 100 by emailing ra-voterreg@pa.gov.

Benefits of Online Registration at

www.VotesPA.com/register

- + Environmentally friendly
- + Registration forms go directly to the correct county office
- + Typed information is easy to read
- + Confirmations go to email
- + Available in English and Spanish



For questions, contact the Pennsylvania Department of State (717) 787-5280 ★ 1-800-VOTES-PA ★ ra-voterreg@pa.gov
County contact information is available at www.votesPA.com/county.



Calculating the number of eligible students.

The GCEA award levels are based on total registrations, regardless of how or when the students registered. Remember that for the GCEA, the percentages are based on eligibility to vote in the spring primary election, not the November general election.

Before you begin the drive, decide on the best calculation method for your school and make a plan to capture the numbers you need. Then you will report your numbers to the Department of State when you apply for the GCEA.

Below are three methods that schools have found to be effective.



Example 1: Use pledge cards to identify students who are already registered.

Pledge cards can be a great way to advertise your registration drive plans, and you may want to include the dates of your drive events on the back.

Featuring the number of students who are already registered—either on their own or from last year's drive—can be a great way to kick-start your efforts this year.

Pledge cards also allow you to identify the number of ineligible students to deduct from your goal total without requesting confidential information about age or citizenship status. Pledge cards work best in the spring to avoid deducting students who are not eligible to vote in November, but will be by the spring primary.

Throughout the year, students can turn in their pledge cards as they register, which can help you to keep track of both paper and on-line registrations.

You can view and download Department of State pledge cards at www.VotesPA.com/gcea.

Example 2: Some schools base their goal on the size of the senior class as a proxy for the actual number of eligible students. This method works well if you feel that the number of eligible juniors will offset the number of ineligible seniors.

Example 3: Depending on how student information is stored, your school's administration may be able to provide you with a count of eligible students.

I pledge to vote!

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Signature: _____

I registered to vote today.

I am already a registered voter.

I will register to vote when I am eligible.

 www.votesPA.com/gcea

Can I register if...

I'm only 17? Seventeen-year-olds can register as long as they will be 18 at the time of the next election.

I've been arrested? Only a very limited set of people are not allowed to vote because they have a criminal record, such as people who are currently in prison because they were convicted of a felony. For more information, go to www.VotesPA.com, click on Register to Vote at the top of the screen, and select Criminal Status & Voting from the menu.

I have more than one residence, or I'm living somewhere temporarily? Register just once using the residence where you spend most of your time. You can submit a new voter registration form to update your address if your living situation changes.

I can't get to the polling place on election day? If you cannot go to your polling place in person on election day, you may be allowed to mail in an absentee ballot. Visit www.VotesPA.com to find out if you are eligible to vote absentee.

I need help to vote? You may bring someone to help you as long as that person is not your employer, your union representative, or the Judge of Elections. When you go to vote, you will be asked to sign a document to confirm that you need help.

I don't have a drivers license or PennDOT ID card? You should provide your social security number, if you have it. You can register with a paper form or upload a digital signature online.

For full details about voting in Pennsylvania and your rights, please visit www.votesPA.com.