



GIRLS INC.

NETWORK-WIDE POLICY & ADVOCACY PLATFORM



- At Girls Inc. we are committed to an [advocacy approach](#) that is grounded in the lived experiences of the girls in our network. 62% of the girls we serve come from households with incomes of \$30,000/year or less, and 78% identify as girls of color.
- Girls Inc. brings an intersectional, racial justice, and trauma-informed lens to our work, and advocates for policies and practices that:
 - support girls' health and wellbeing.
 - foster school climates that are conducive to learning for all students, particularly those from underserved communities and those who face discrimination because of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or religion.
 - combat systemic racism, sexism, and other social and economic barriers.
- Girls across the [Girls Inc. network](#) advocate on issues that matter to them, and learn to be civically engaged. We partner with schools across the **United States** and **Canada** to provide the mentorship, safe spaces, and evidence-based programs that are proven to help girls succeed.
- Girls Inc. envisions a world where girls and all youth have what they need to grow and flourish, in school and beyond. It is our mission—now and always—to support girls and to ensure that [their rights are recognized and respected](#).
- At Girls Inc., both our programming and advocacy focus on helping girls become healthy, educated, and independent; we inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

With so much at stake, we must work with girls to move our society forward. Centering the voices of the girls we serve, including our national [Teen Advocacy Council](#), we give girls the platform and tools to advocate for social change.

Join us in advocating for the rights and opportunities of all girls at [girls inc.org](https://girlsinc.org).

GIRLS INC. POLICY & ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

SEXUAL HEALTH, SAFETY, AND AUTONOMY

Girls deserve access to the knowledge and support necessary to take ownership of their sexual health and make decisions to help them lead fulfilling, safe, and healthy lives. Their bodily autonomy is critical to their dignity as human beings and their right to be safe in the world. Girls Inc. advocates for policies that:

- Promote access to comprehensive sex education & sexual health services.**
- Advance menstrual equity.**
- Combat sexual harassment & violence.**

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Every girl should have equal opportunity to succeed, and the discrimination that girls face due to the intersection of their race and gender can negatively impact their academic achievement, self-esteem, and overall wellbeing. Unfair school discipline policies and practices disproportionately harm girls of color, girls with disabilities, and LGBTQ youth and push them out of school. Girls Inc. advocates to:

- Reform school discipline policies and practices.**
- Increase access to postsecondary education.**
- Improve access for girls and other underrepresented groups to meaningful opportunities to pursue all career paths,** including in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- Increase funding for out-of-school learning and mentoring opportunities.**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOTING RIGHTS

A democracy is stronger when more voices are heard and everyone is engaged. Girls Inc. prepares girls to be civically engaged members of society and we encourage all eligible voters to participate in our democracy. Girls Inc. advocates to:

- Promote high quality, sustained civic education in schools, for grades K-12.**
- Support free and fair elections.**
- Promote policies that make it easier for people to register to vote.**
- Protect the rights of communities that have historically been excluded from freely voting.**

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Girls Inc. affiliates report that natural disasters, COVID-19, economic instability, racial injustice, social unrest, immigration raids, and increases in hate crimes and discrimination have contributed to trauma and mental health concerns for girls. Mental health is as important as physical health and there should be no shame associated with needing help, yet girls report that there is still a stigma associated with seeking support. Girls Inc. advocates to:

- Increase access to mental health and wellness support for students in underserved communities.**
- Combat the persistent stigma surrounding mental health issues and treatment.**