

Girls Inc. envisions a world where all girls have the tools and resources they need to grow and flourish. Centering the voices of the girls we serve, including that of our Teen Advocacy Councils, we give girls the platform and tools they need to promote social change. At Girls Inc., we focus on helping girls across our Network become healthy, educated, and independent. We work in schools and communities across the United States and Canada to ensure girls have the mentorship and programming they need to speak up for the issues that matter most to them. From promoting health and wellbeing to fostering school environments that ensure girls can thrive, Girls Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

## **Girls Inc. Policy and Advocacy Priorities**

### **Sexual Health, Safety, and Autonomy**

Girls deserve to have the knowledge and resources necessary to take ownership over their bodies to ensure they can lead healthy lives. Girls Inc. promotes policies that:

- Increase access to sex education and reproductive health care
- Ensures girls have access to menstrual products and menstrual health education
- Combat sexual harassment and violence

### **Access to Education**

Every girl should have equal opportunity to succeed. Girls Inc. champions policies that ensure girls can thrive in the classroom and become lifelong learners. Girls Inc. supports policies that:

- Reform school discipline policies and practices
- Increase access to postsecondary education
- Improve opportunities for girls to pursue meaningful career paths including in science, technology, engineering, and math
- Increase funding for learning and mentorship opportunities outside of school

### **Civic Engagement**

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

- High quality civic education in schools, for grades K-12
- Policies that make it easier for people to register to vote
- Practices to ensure all citizens can cast their ballots

## Mental Health and Wellness

Girls Inc. Affiliates report that mental health has become an increasing concern for girls across the Network. Mental health is critical to overall wellbeing and healthy development and there should be no shame associated with needing help. Still, girls report that there still is a stigma for those seeking support. Girls Inc. stands up for:

- Increasing access to mental health and wellness support for students in their communities
- Ensuring girls can get the treatment and support they need without stigma or shame