



The [Governor's Civic Engagement Award](#) (GCEA), initiated at the start of the 2017-18 school year, is a cooperative effort by the PA Departments of State and Education, in collaboration with Inspire U.S. Inspire is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that offers resources and guidance to student leaders as they educate their peers about the electoral process and the importance of civic engagement.

Under the GCEA program, PA high schools that register to vote at least 85 percent of their eligible student population win Gold Level awards, and schools that register at least 65 percent win Silver Level awards. An eligible student is one who is 18 years of age or will turn 18 on or before the date of the next election. More information about the award is available on the [Department of State website](#).

In the 2017-18 school year:

- 32 high schools across the commonwealth held voter registration initiatives, resulting in 2,955 eligible students registering to vote.
- 15 schools in 13 counties won GCEA Gold Level awards and 1 school won a Silver Level award.
- For more about the GCEA's first year, check out the [review](#) on Inspire U.S.'s website.

For the 2018-19 school year:

- High schools can [sign up](#) for the GCEA program with [Inspire U.S.](#), which will help organize registration drives, Get Out the Vote rallies, school celebrations and recognition events as well as provide materials and data management.
- GCEA award [applications](#) are due on **April 22, 2019**. Calculations to determine that 65 percent or 85 percent of a school's eligible students are registered will be based on the number of students eligible to vote in the May 2019 primary election.
- Individual students will be recognized for their efforts to register their peers to vote and for their service as poll workers. Students must be at least 17 years of age and have the permission of their principal and parent/guardian to serve as a poll worker. They must be nominated by a representative from their school or county election office for the award. [Nominations](#) must be mailed to the Department of State, c/o Governor's Civic Engagement Award, 210 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or emailed to ra-voterreg@pa.gov by **April 22, 2019**.
- Printer-friendly voter-education materials can be found on the Department of State's website votesPA.com.