

Connected Student Leadership Strategy 16: I Care & I Act

Investigating the many roles needed to truly collaborate & create change

Connection to Belonging: **Connection**  , **Unique contribution** 

Inspiration: Throughout Greece, officials have grown increasingly frustrated with high school student school building sit-ins during which school facilities are vandalized and damaged. The Lambrakis Foundation wanted to work proactively with children starting in primary school to help them understand they have the choice as a citizen to publicly protest to express their position but there are alternative ways that can be more effective. An additional goal of the foundation is to cultivate volunteerism and solidarity. They created the “I Care & I Act” program to help children understand what it means to act as a citizen and participate in democracy.

Teachers receive training in content, resources, and methodology to implement with their students. The program creates a sense of ownership among teachers and students with teachers empowering students by asking, “What needs do you see in your environment that need improvement?”

Explore Volunteer Structures Strategy: Informing students about the organizational structure of volunteer organizations is one part of the “I Care & I Act” curriculum. Materials spell out key elements that can be addressed in any classroom:

- What forms of organizations are there?
- How are they managed?
- How are they financed?
- Who do they help?
- What is their objective?

According to their teacher guide, (translated from the original Greek,) “Awareness of the wide variety of areas of activity of the institutions and structures of volunteerism and solidarity can spark the interest of students, who will discover areas related to their personal interests. In addition, understanding the relationship between defending humans and social rights is linked to the sense of justice that is strong at these ages.”

Competencies: Collaboration, Curiosity