

# Kansas State Department of Education First Annual Civic Engagement Conference



Photo Credit: Maria Bryk

## Kansas State Department of Education First Annual Civic Engagement Conference February 19, 2018

KSDE is sponsoring the first annual Civic Engagement Conference, which will focus on providing educators and students grades 6 through 12 with resources, ideas, and experiences that will improve the civic engagement culture of their schools. Presenters from across the state and region will present sessions on a variety of programs and practices.

The keynote speaker will be **Mary Beth Tinker**. Most students don't expect to be suspended when they show up for Algebra class, but that's what happened to Mary Beth Tinker in 1965, when she was thirteen years old. Saddened by news from Vietnam, Mary Beth and other Des Moines, Iowa, students had worn black armbands to school to mourn the dead and call for a Christmas truce. The American Civil Liberties Union challenged the suspensions in court, leading to a landmark 1969 Supreme Court ruling for students' rights in "Tinker vs Des Moines" that neither teachers nor students "shed their constitutional rights... at the schoolhouse gate." The Tinker ruling has been cited in more than 6,000 cases involving students' rights.

Mary Beth lives in Washington DC, but travels the country on a "Tinker Tour" to promote civics education, student journalism, youth rights and youth voices. She is a Registered Nurse with master's degrees in nursing and public health.

The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn Downtown 420 SE 6<sup>th</sup>, Topeka, Kansas.

Registration includes: Continental breakfast, all day beverage service, lunch, afternoon snack, and door prizes.

Online registration Deadline is February 14, 2018 There will be no walk-up registration.

Registration: **Group (1 adult and 2 students) \$140**

**Individual (1 adult) \$60**

Conference Schedule:

7:15-8:00	Registration and Breakfast	12:00-12:45	Lunch
8:00-8:25	Opening Session	12:45-1:20	Keynote
8:30-9:20	Break Out 1	1:30-2:20	Break Out 4
9:30-10:20	Break Out 2	2:30-3:20	Break Out 5
10:30-11:20	Break Out 3	3:30-4:00	Snack Break, Closing, and Door Prizes
11:30-12:00	Vendor Time		

