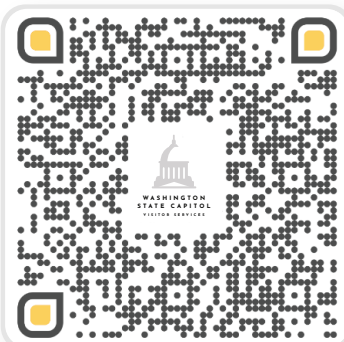


Virtual Tours



Xplore Washington State Capitol App & Live Distance Learning

The Washington State Capitol Visitor Services will soon offer two new services to enhance our civic education program for Washington State students:

- **Xplore Washington State Capitol**, a FREE virtual tour app that takes advantage of 360 degree images and augmented reality. The app supports self-guided tours as well as facilitated Distance Learning Live Virtual Tours.
- **Distance Learning Live Virtual Tours** are virtual field trips lead by Visitor Services Tour Guides in real time using the app.

WHY VIRTUAL TOURS

Democracy requires an informed public, and civic education is a graduation requirement in Washington State. Prior to the pandemic, the Capitol Visitor Services delivered onsite tours to 24,000 students annually through the Civic Education Program. During this time of distance learning, a virtual program is needed to fulfill the mission of teaching civics at our Capitol Campus. The virtual program is designed to support and align with state education requirements.

GOALS

- Continue teaching civics in 2021.
- Reduce or eliminate the waiting list for civic education tours. Annually, up to 3,000 students are unserved due to a long waiting list.
- Provide a civic education option for school districts that can't afford to travel to the Capitol.
- Provide access for others who have barriers to traveling to the state Capitol.

NEXT STEPS

- Complete the pilot testing phase.
- Design a delivery model, including staffing needs, for live virtual tours.
- Continue to give virtual tours with schools that had signed up for in-person tours in 2021 as part of pilot testing.
- Launch self-guided tours and open up reservations for virtual tours at the same time.
- Continued to coordinate with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Explore options for future enhancements.