



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume I: The Kids are not the Threat

Learning from the Past, Creating Our Future: Imagining a Modern Freedom School

Guide for Curriculum Unit 26.01.05, published September 2026
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Anchored in the history of racial segregation, this unit aims to teach students about the causes and consequences of the Freedom Summer of 1964. After analyzing the Freedom Schools that were established by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to help Black Mississippians exercise their right to vote, students will explore the history of segregation in Richmond, Virginia and determine similarities and differences between the history of those two places. From there, students will identify major issues facing their communities today and design their own version of a Freedom School within the modern context. This unit relies on historical analysis to contextualize the Freedom Schools within the Civil Rights Movement, but it becomes interdisciplinary as students are encouraged to focus on any modern problem that speaks to their passions and to be creative in designing a lesson to teach the class.

(Developed for AP African American Studies, grades 10-12, recommended for African American Studies and U.S. History, grades 9-12, and AP U.S. History and AP African American Studies, grades 10-12)

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