



NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of STATE LEGISLATURES

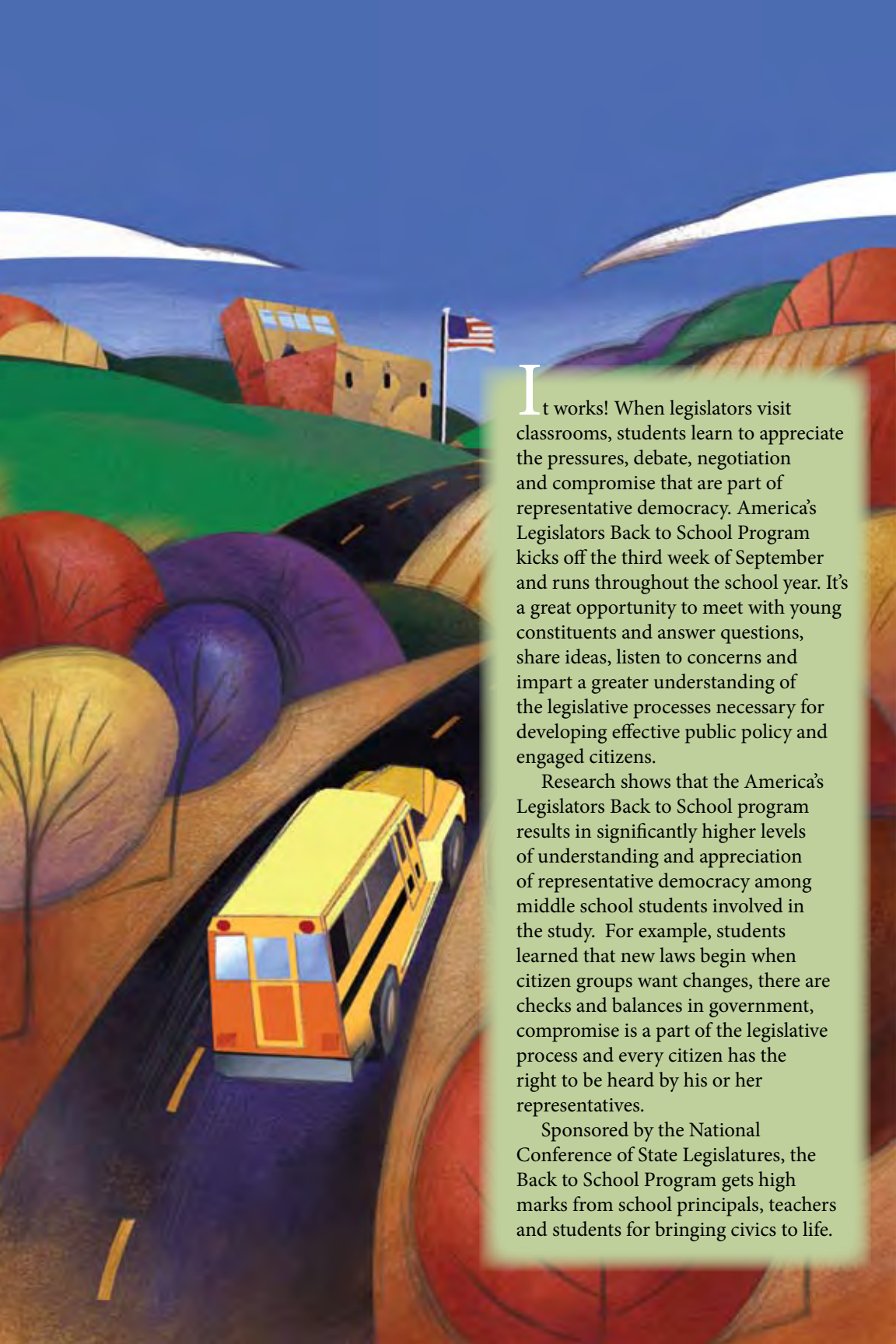


America's Legislators Back to School Program



TRUST
for REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY





It works! When legislators visit classrooms, students learn to appreciate the pressures, debate, negotiation and compromise that are part of representative democracy. America's Legislators Back to School Program kicks off the third week of September and runs throughout the school year. It's a great opportunity to meet with young constituents and answer questions, share ideas, listen to concerns and impart a greater understanding of the legislative processes necessary for developing effective public policy and engaged citizens.

Research shows that the America's Legislators Back to School program results in significantly higher levels of understanding and appreciation of representative democracy among middle school students involved in the study. For example, students learned that new laws begin when citizen groups want changes, there are checks and balances in government, compromise is a part of the legislative process and every citizen has the right to be heard by his or her representatives.

Sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Back to School Program gets high marks from school principals, teachers and students for bringing civics to life.

America's Legislators Back to School Program



NCSL is Here to Help

Get everything you need for the Back to School Program at www.ncsl.org/backtoschool. Information and classroom resources available for legislators to use include:

- Talking points about legislators' roles and the legislative process.
- Suggested classroom activities.
- Time for Kids and inTime special editions for students.
- You Rule booklet and DVD.
- Your Ideas Count! Representative Democracy and You booklet.
- Citizen Brain DVD.
- Follow-up lesson plans for the teacher's classroom use.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

It's easy to participate and share ideas with America's youth. Contact your state legislative coordinator listed on the NCSL Back to School Website or, let us know you would like to participate and we'll help you from there.

NCSL Contacts

(303) 364-7700

Joy Heiserman, ext. 1648

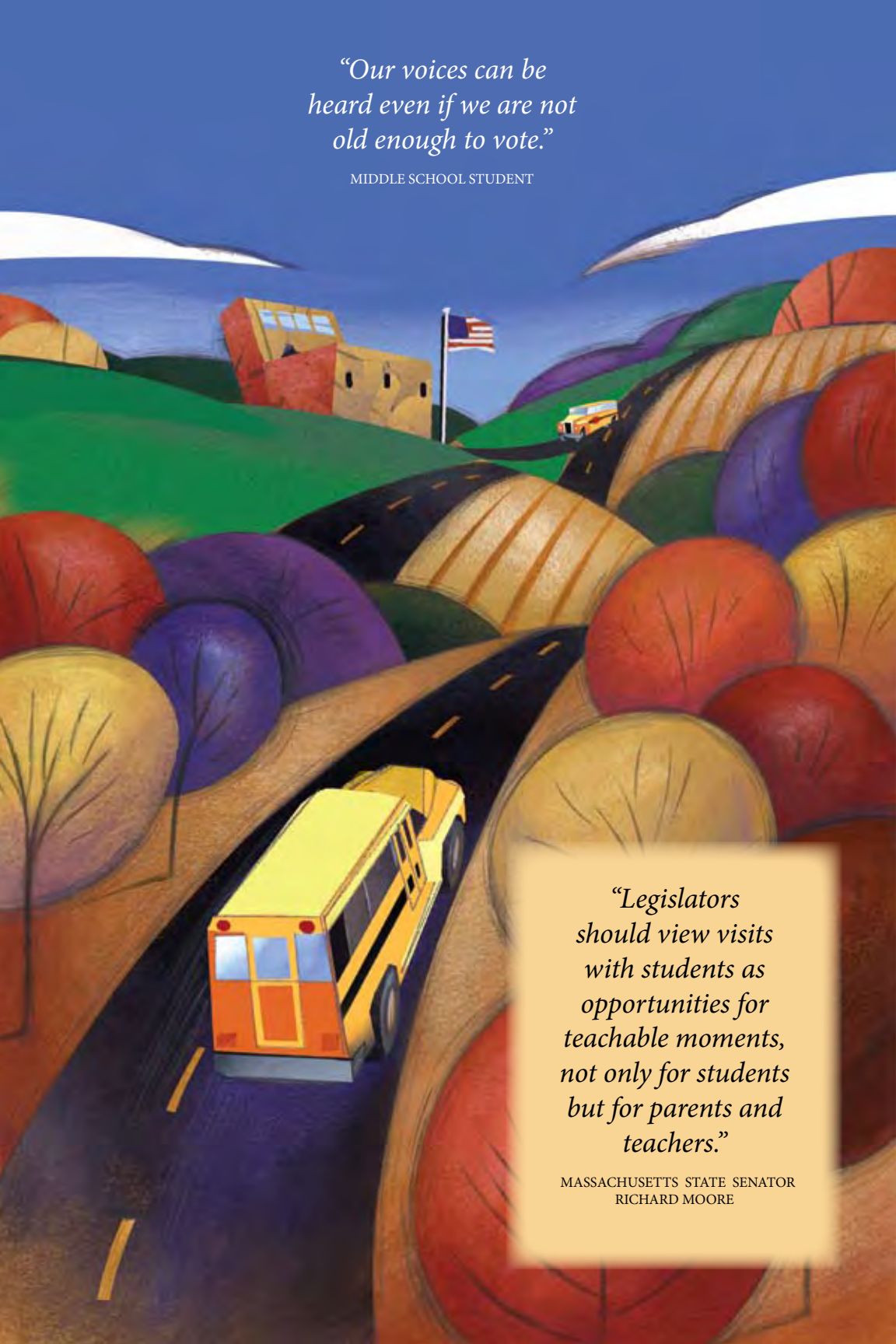
Jan Goehring, ext. 1408

Joyce Johnson, ext. 1450

Or via email at btsp@ncsl.org

“Lawmakers get a fresh perspective from young citizens, and students get a real-world perspective from elected leaders about the importance of participating in our democracy. Everybody is better for it.”

KANSAS STATE SENATOR DEREK SCHMIDT



*“Our voices can be
heard even if we are not
old enough to vote.”*

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

*“Legislators
should view visits
with students as
opportunities for
teachable moments,
not only for students
but for parents and
teachers.”*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATOR
RICHARD MOORE

“I learned that our state legislators are regular people that fight for our ideas, but have to compromise in order to have them passed.”

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Education Community Support

America’s Legislators Back to School Program is endorsed by:

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Center for Civic Education
- Center on Congress at Indiana University
- Close Up Foundation
- Dirksen Congressional Center
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- National Catholic Educational Association
- National Constitution Center
- National Council for the Social Studies
- National Education Association
- National Middle School Association
- National School Boards Association
- Reading Recovery Council of North America

“The Back to School program revitalizes me every time I enter a classroom. It inspires me both as a legislator and as a person.”

NEVADA STATE SENATOR VALERIE WIENER

“Young people want to be engaged and involved in the political process. Students are fascinated by this process and are in tune with what is happening.”

UTAH STATE
REPRESENTATIVE RONDA
RUDD MENLOVE

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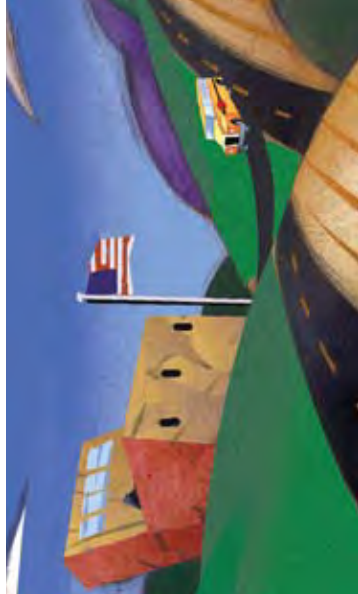
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The Forum for America's Ideas

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America's Legislators
Back to School Program



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