America’s Legislators
Back to School Program
Your Ideas Count! That’s the message lawmakers will bring to students across the country when they visit classrooms during the America’s Legislators Back to School Program. The event 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.

Sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, the America’s Legislators Back to School Program is designed to teach young people—the nation’s future voters and leaders—what it’s like to be a state legislator: the processes, the pressures, and the debate, negotiation and compromise that are the very fabric of American democracy. School principals, teachers and students have given state legislators an “A” for bringing civics to life for young people during the event.

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 Civic Education Web site at www.ncsl.org/public/trust/contacts_bsw.htm or, let us know you’d like to participate in the program, and we’ll help you from there.

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
◆ Freedom’s Answer
◆ 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

"A textbook and class lecture could not begin to match the value of a lawmaker’s visit to our class.”
—Teacher Herb Schaunaman
Hecla-Houghton School District
South Dakota

"It never ceases to amaze me how enthusiastic and inquisitive the students are when we go into the classroom.”
—Senator Jay Dardenne, Louisiana

"Our students need this program!"
—Teacher Saundra Morales
Fox Tech High School, Texas

"Lawmakers need to share the message with students that government is within their reach and it’s important to get involved. The earlier they participate, the stronger our government becomes.”
—Senator Valerie Wiener, Nevada

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NCSL’S TRUST FOR REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AND OTHER CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS, VISIT WWW.NCSL.ORG/TRUST ON THE WEB.