



What is Civics Education?

Advancing Civics Education (A.C.E.) is a program launched by the Philadelphia Bar Association in partnership with public schools in Philadelphia. A.C.E. provides supplemental civics education including the principles of citizenship, democracy and dispute resolution to public school students.

Why Civics Education?

Through A.C.E., judges and lawyers bring civics to life for Philadelphia high school and elementary school students and provides a fresh perspective on the core tenets that make up the foundation of our Constitutional legal system. An understanding of civics, legal systems and civic participation is vital to the success of future generations.

Volunteer to Join a Team!

What can I do?

Volunteer to join a team! Judges and lawyers will have opportunities to touch the lives of students while enriching your own citizenship.

After joining what will I do?

- Work with other volunteer judges and lawyers to engage students in critical thinking about concepts of justice, civil rights, and civic duty
- Connect with students one-on-one in the context of small group discussions, role plays and analyses of contemporary case law
- Empower students with a better grasp of the inner workings of our legal system while developing their academic, civic, and communication skills

- Lead by example and model active participation in government
- Become involved in a meaningful way in the daily successes and challenges of public education
- Compare the U.S. Constitutional model to other historical forms of governance
- Introduce students throughout the city to diverse attorneys and practice areas

Volunteers will visit the same class once a month over the course of the school year, either in 5th grade or high school. Using simple, engaging civics curricula small teams of volunteer judges and lawyers will build strong relationships with students as they encourage youth to reflect upon the vital role citizens play within our legal system. The time commitment includes a training session, 10 classes (1 hour each) and group preparation time. The time requirement is minimal given the the impact you may have on a student's life.

The flexible ACE curriculum toolbox focuses on civics, democracy, and government, both in the U.S. and around the world. Teams work with classroom teachers to provide enrichment, and can choose from an array of topics to complement the existing curriculum. Lessons include hands on opportunities for students to discuss, consider, and role play through different historical and present day situations, including for example:

- Voting Rights and citizenship
- International movements for civil and human rights
- Flash mobs and the First Amendment
- The Amistad case and international law
- Search and seizure
- Examining campaign ads
- Court system “go fish” (5th grade)
- Mock trials and mock jury selection

SCHOOLS

Academy at Palumbo
Central High School
Constitution High School
GAMP
Lincoln High School
Parkway Center City High School
Parkway Northwest High School for
Peace and Social Justice
Roxborough High School
Samuel Fels High School
Science Leadership Academy at Beeber
World Communications Charter School
Andrew Jackson Elementary School
Belmont Elementary School



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For more information visit www.ACEcivics.org

