

## What is Advancing Civics Education?

Advancing Civics Education (A.C.E.) is a program launched by the Philadelphia Bar Association in partnership with public schools in Philadelphia to provide supplemental civics education — in areas such as fundamental principles of citizenship, democracy and dispute resolution — to ninth-grade public school students.

## Why civics education?

An understanding of civics, legal systems and civic participation is vital to the success of future generations. A.C.E. brings civics to life for Philadelphia high school students. This effort will complement the hard work of teachers and principals to create a bridge from middle school to high school that focuses upon each citizen's rights and responsibilities within our community, our Commonwealth and our rapidly changing world.

## What can I do?

Volunteer to join a team! You will have ample opportunity to touch the lives of students while enriching your own citizenship. Participants will:

- 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 analysis 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
- Enhance dropout prevention by targeting ninth graders as they transition into high school
- 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
- Expose students throughout the city to diverse attorneys and practice areas



## The A.C.E. Mission

The A.C.E. Program injects fundamental principles of citizenship, democracy and dispute resolution into the existing ninth-grade public school curriculum in Philadelphia and provides a fresh perspective on the core tenets that undergird our Constitutional legal system.

## What can volunteer lawyers & judges expect?

Following a training session in the summertime, volunteers will visit the same class once a month over the course of the school year. Using a simple, engaging civics curriculum woven into the ninth-grade world history course, small teams of volunteer lawyers and judges 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 required (training sessions, 9 to 10 hourlong teaching sessions, and preparation time) is minimal when weighed against the impact that a volunteer can have as a mentor, teacher and community leader in the A.C.E. program.

The Philadelphia Bar Association's Ad Hoc Committee for Public School Education is partnering with administrators from the School District of Philadelphia to develop an appropriate program curriculum and bring A.C.E. into ninth-grade classrooms. Committee members are:

### Co-Chairs

Jenimae Almquist  
(215) 255-4428  
jalmquist@raynesmccarty.com

Barbara Potts  
(215) 569-5372  
potts@blankrome.com

### Members

Hon. Jacqueline F. Allen  
Rochelle M. Fedullo  
Paul W. Kaufman  
Murray S. Levin  
Christopher J. Lowe  
A. Michael Pratt  
Pedro A. Ramos  
Hon. Lillian Harris Ransom  
Hon. Marjorie O. Rendell  
Elvin P. Ross III  
ShaVon Y. Savage  
Polly Shaffer  
Larry H. Spector  
David K. Trevaskis

## For more information

For questions about the A.C.E. program or more information on how to become an A.C.E. volunteer, please contact Amy Muldoon, [amuldoon@philabar.org](mailto:amuldoon@philabar.org)/(215) 238-6305, or Larry Spector, [lspector@kcr-law.com](mailto:lspector@kcr-law.com)/(215) 735-8700.

**Volunteer today!**

Using the vast resources at our disposal – our legal training, energy and commitment to educating Philadelphia’s youth for the future of our region – we can make a palpable difference in the lives of students and volunteers. Please sign up to help teach civics in Philadelphia high schools with A.C.E. today!

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Firm/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Choose your teammates**

Do you have colleagues interested in being on your A.C.E. team? Include their information here:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Firm/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Firm/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Firm/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**School District Affiliation** (please circle or list)  
Parent Teacher Graduate None Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit form**  
Please complete form and mail to Amy Muldoon, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955.



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Philadelphia Bar Association  
+  
School District of Philadelphia

Advancing  
Civics  
Education

To volunteer for the Advancing Civics Education program, please fill out the detachable form and mail to:  
Amy Muldoon  
Philadelphia Bar Association  
1101 Market St., 11th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955  
(215) 238-6305  
(215) 238-1159

