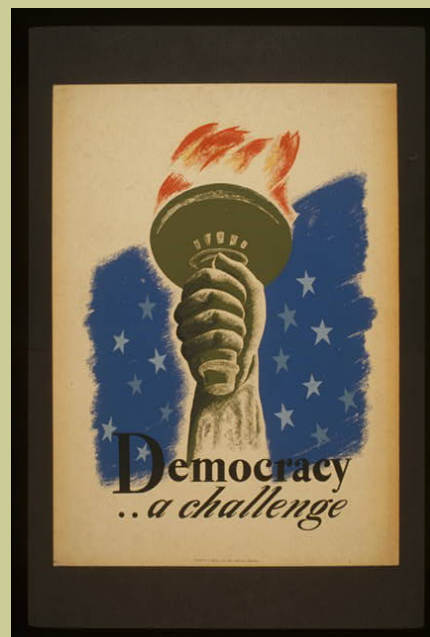


Strengthening Civic Education in Colorado Schools

**DIRECTORY OF
CIVIC
EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
IN COLORADO

2007-2008**



colorado | department of education

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INTRODUCTION

This catalog lists programs and materials relevant to the teaching of civics, government, and law and available to teachers in Colorado. It is provided to assist local planning teams in determining what programs they wish to include in their regional conferences.

Some of the entries describe comprehensive programs that provide curriculum and professional development at various grade levels, along with a culminating student event. Other entries describe more focused programs that provide, for example, materials for a specific grade level. Each listing begins with a table that provides information on three key factors:

1. Whether curriculum is available, either free with training or at an additional cost.
2. Whether staff development is available and in what format (workshops, intensive day-long programs, follow-up).
3. Whether the program includes a special student event (such as a showcase, simulation, service project, competition).

The remainder of each entry indicates the grade level addressed, briefly describes the program or materials, and gives contact information for the person responsible for the program in Colorado.

The overall listing is alphabetical. Table 1 shows the programs by grade level.

The catalog can be used to plan regional programs in a variety of ways. For example, the planning team for one region might select one program for each grade level—elementary, middle, and high—and focus the regional program on those. Yet another planning team might decide to focus on selected civic standards (see Table 2) and choose programs that best address those standards. Another planning team might opt to focus on a particular best practice recommended by *The Civic Mission of Schools* report (see Table 3) and mix and match program elements to create an agenda that addresses that best practice. The “High Quality Practice Criteria” presented in Table 4 may be useful in determining how the best practices might be applied.

This catalog features Colorado programs or national programs with strong representation in Colorado. Of course, many other resources are available to Colorado’s teachers. To help provide access to such programs, we have included an annotated list of web sites we believe will be useful to teachers working to strengthen civic education in Colorado schools. This list can be found at the end of the catalog.

Table 1: Programs by Grade Level

Elementary (K-5)	Middle Schools (6-8)	High School (9-12)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Canopy • Colorado Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools • Colorado Council on Economic Education • Colorado Project Citizen • Colorado We the People • Foundations of Democracy • Front Range Earth Force • Kids Voting Colorado • Learn and Serve Colorado • Legislators Back to School Program • Liberty Day • Peace Jam Foundation • Post-News Education • Public Achievement • Thomas Jefferson • VOICE/Primary VOICE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Canopy • Colorado Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools • Colorado Council on Economic Education • Colorado Project Citizen • Colorado We the People • Discussing Controversial Issues • Facing History and Ourselves • Foundations of Democracy • Front Range Earth Force • Hate Violence Mock Trial Program • Kids Voting Colorado • Learn and Serve Colorado • Legislators Back to School Program • Liberty Day • Peace Jam Foundation • Post-News Education • Public Achievement • Rocky Mountain PBS • Thomas Jefferson • VOICE/Primary VOICE • World Affairs Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate Possibility • Choices for the 21st Century • Civic Canopy • Colorado Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools • Colorado Close-up • Colorado Council on Economic Education • Colorado Mock Trial Program • Colorado Project Citizen • Colorado We the People • Colorado Youth in Government • Courts in the Community • Discussing Controversial Issues • Facing History and Ourselves • Foundations of Democracy • Front Range Earth Force • Hate Violence Mock Trial Program • Kids Voting Colorado • Leader's Challenge • Learn and Serve Colorado • Legislators Back to School Program • Peace Jam Foundation • Post-News Education • Public Achievement • Rocky Mountain PBS • Service-Learning Colorado • Street Law • Student Legislative Education Day • Thomas Jefferson • World Affairs Challenge

Table 2: Colorado State Civics Standards

1. Students understand the purposes of government and the basic constitutional principles of the United States republican form of government:

- 1.1 Students know and understand what government is and what purpose it serves.
- 1.2 Students know the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government.
- 1.3 Students understand the principles of the United States constitutional government.
- 1.4 Students know the distinctive characteristics of the political culture of the United States.
- 1.5 Students know the fundamental democratic principles inherent in the United States concept of a constitutional democratic republic.

2. Students know the structure and function of local, state, and national government and how citizen involvement shapes public policy.

- 2.1 Students know the organization and functions of local, state, and national governments.
- 2.2 Students know how power, authority, and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited through federalism as established by the United States Constitution.
- 2.3 Students know and understand the place of law in the Colorado and United States constitutional systems.
- 2.4 Students know how public policy is developed at the local, state, and national levels.

3. Students know the political relationship of the United States and its citizens to other nations and to world affairs.

- 3.1 Students know how and why governments and nongovernmental agencies around the world interact politically.
- 3.2 Students understand how the United States government develops foreign policy.
- 3.3 Students understand the domestic and foreign policy influence the United States has on other nations and how the actions of other nations influence politics and society of the United States.

4. Students understand how citizens exercise the roles, rights, and responsibilities of participation in civic life at all levels—local, state, and national.

- 4.1 Students know what citizenship is.
- 4.2 Students know how citizens can fulfill their responsibilities for preserving the constitutional republic.
- 4.3 Students know how citizens can exercise their rights.
- 4.4 Students know how citizens can participate in civic life.

From *Colorado Model Content Standards: Civics* (Denver: Colorado Department of Education, 1998). Available at <http://www.lawanddemocracy.org/pdffiles/civics.pdf>.

Table 3: CMS Best Practices

- ***Provide instruction in government, history, law, and democracy.*** Formal instruction in U.S. government, history, and democracy increases civic knowledge. This is a valuable goal in itself and may also contribute to young people’s tendency to engage in civic and political activities over the long term. However, schools should avoid teaching only rote facts about dry procedures, which is unlikely to benefit students and may actually alienate them from politics.
- ***Incorporate discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events into the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives.*** When young people have opportunities to discuss current issues in a classroom setting, they tend to have greater interest in politics, improved critical thinking and communications skills, more civic knowledge, and more interest in discussing public affairs out of school. Conversations, however, should be carefully moderated so that students feel welcome to speak from a variety of perspectives. Teachers need support in broaching controversial issues in classrooms since they may risk criticism or sanctions if they do so.
- ***Design and implement programs that provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction.*** Service programs are now common in K-12 schools. The ones that best develop engaged citizens are linked to the curriculum; consciously pursue civic outcomes, rather than seek only to improve academic performance or to promote higher self-esteem; provide students with opportunities to reflect on the service work; allow students—especially older ones—to pursue political responses to problems consistent with laws that require public schools to be nonpartisan; and see service-learning as part of a broader philosophy toward education, not just a program that is adopted for a finite period in a particular course.
- ***Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their schools or communities.*** Long term studies of Americans show that those who participate in extracurricular activities in high school remain more civically engaged than their contemporaries even decades later. Thus, everyone should have opportunities to join high school groups, and such participation should be valued.
- ***Encourage student participation in school governance.*** A long tradition of research suggests that giving students more opportunities to participate in the management of their own classrooms and schools builds their civic skills and attitudes. Thus, giving students a voice in school governance is a promising way to encourage all young people to engage civically.
- ***Encourage students’ participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.*** Recent evidence indicates that simulations of voting, trials, legislative deliberation, and diplomacy in schools can lead to heightened political knowledge and interest. The data are not conclusive, but these approaches show promise and should be considered when developing programs and curriculum.

From *The Civic Mission of Schools* (New York: Carnegie Corporation and College Park, MD: Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, University of Maryland, 2003), p. 6. http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/campaign/cms_report.html. For national and state programs that have been judged to represent these best practices, see <http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/resources/matrix.html> and http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/goto/Best_Practice_Examples.

Table 4: High Quality Practice Criteria

Goals: Educating for democracy prepares students who:

- Are informed and thoughtful about public and community issues, reflecting a grasp and appreciation of history and the fundamental processes of American constitutional democracy.
- Participate in their communities through various civic, religious, cultural, and social associations and venues.
- Act politically, seeking to solve problems on behalf of the public good through accessing a variety of skills, venues, and modes for public participation.
- Understand the opportunities and challenges of democratic self-government.
- Possess an array of moral and civic virtues.

High quality educational programming for democracy:

- Helps students acquire civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- Fosters students' commitment to be civically informed, aware, and connected.
- Promotes students' active engagement in civic life.
- Is mindful of students' developmental abilities.
- Helps students make connections between acquired civic learning and their personal actions, values, and responsibilities.
- Infuses civic learning throughout the school curriculum and school culture.
- Links civic practice with education standards and policy on the school, district, state, and/or federal level, when appropriate and feasible.
- Identifies, promotes understanding of, and potentially seeks to redress social and civic problems on the local, state, national, and/or global level.
- Articulates clear civic learning outcomes and aligns program "inputs" with these outcomes.

High quality civic education pedagogy:

- Utilizes active learning methods and experiences.
- Moves beyond rote memorization and recitation of facts as the sole teaching method.
- Encourages verbal and written reflection to reinforce learning.
- Develops student voice, initiative, and leadership.
- Seeks collaboration with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and a broad array of community partners in order to build school-community connections.
- Includes assessment of student outcomes.

High quality civic education supports include:

- Teachers knowledgeable about civic education subject matter and active learning strategies.
- Democratic school and classroom management, culture, and governance.
- Continuous civic learning experiences across the curriculum.
- School, district, and state-level policies and standards that support civic learning.

From the National Civic Mission of Schools Campaign Advocacy Toolkit at www.civicmissionofschools.org. This document outlines criteria for identifying high quality practices applicable to the six recommended civic education approaches of the 2003 *Civic Mission of Schools* report. Suggested criteria draw on standards documents, best practice guidelines, and research literature relevant to the broad challenge of educating for democracy.

Program Descriptions

Celebrate Possibility		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Civic engagement curriculum available for free download.	Curriculum-centered training available.	No.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

Celebrate Possibility's Civic Engagement Curriculum is designed to give students the skills and knowledge they need to create the change they wish to see in the world. Students can learn researching, writing, lobbying, community organizing, and public art skills while focusing on a particular social issue of their choice. The curriculum meets Denver Public Schools' Civics Standards.

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Choices for the 21 st Century		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
27 units, each including student texts and teacher's guides, available for purchase.	Workshops.	No.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

Choices is a program of the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. Through curriculum units and professional development, Choices engages secondary students in international issues. All Choices materials are based on current scholarship and draw connections between history and current issues. Examples of topics on which units are available are:

- Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy
- Global Environmental Problems: Implications for U.S. Policy
- Confronting Genocide: Never Again?
- U.S. Trade Policy: Competing in a Global Economy
- Shifting Sands: Balancing U.S. Interests in the Middle East
- Russia's Uncertain Transition: Challenges for U.S. Policy
- Caught between Two Worlds: Mexico at the Crossroads
- China on the World Stage: Weighing the U.S. Response

Choices also offers online materials for "Teaching with the News."

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Civic Canopy		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
No.	Networking events, community dialogues.	No.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

The Civic Canopy is a network of partners that engages in thoughtful dialogue and collaborative action to increase the civic health of Colorado communities. The Canopy provides the following services:

- Facilitation and meeting planning
- Research and process evaluation
- Public engagement initiatives
- Large and small networking events
- Web-based communication and asset mapping tools
- Coaching and assistance on collaborative projects
- Other on-demand network support
- “Vital signs” reports of community health

The Civic Canopy was a key partner in the Civic Mission of Schools Campaign.

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Colorado Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
The Campaign does not promote a particular curriculum; rather, it promotes awareness and use of the six practices outlined in the CMS report.	Professional development is provided through CMS coalition members.	No.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

The Colorado Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a bipartisan coalition of education, community, and policy leaders statewide, aims to increase the quantity and quality of civic learning in Colorado schools, grades K-12. The Campaign engages educators, policymakers, business leaders, students, and others in building public support and leadership to renew the civic mission of our schools. Colorado is one of six states working nationally to renew civic learning. The Colorado Campaign began in November 2004 and will expand over the next two or more years. Strategies include:

- Building a statewide coalition to give strategic direction, stewardship, and voice to the campaign.
- Supporting several local sites to participate in a collaborative, community engagement process that leads to local policy and practice changes.
- Implementing communications, information, and outreach plans to expand the constituency of supporters and understanding of a more comprehensive K-12 approach to civic learning.
- Identifying statewide priorities (if any) and create a shared agenda for improving civic learning across the state.
- Developing and linking with strategic partnerships and networks to increase effectiveness and success of the Campaign.
- Develop resources to implement the Campaign plans.

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Colorado Close Up		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Pre-program packet and program guide.	Workshops and intensive programs on identifying and using local issues to teach history and government and on linking service to social studies.	Three-day experiential citizenship seminars at the state Capitol; fee is \$250 per student, with scholarships available. No student has ever been rejected for financial reasons.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

Three-day youth civic education seminars provide students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to participate in a democratic society. Participants study all three branches of government and apply what they have learned to address the most pressing local issues in their community. They learn about democratic government and citizenship by practicing them. Students engage in mock trials, share solutions to state issues with legislators, observe the House and Senate, learn strategies for making their own views known, create a state budget and consider its impact, practice lobbying, and meet with leaders from all three branches of government. They return home to participate in government and engage in service learning projects that deepen their understanding of government and how to participate in it.

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Colorado Council on Economic Education		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Teacher guides with lesson plans, overhead masters, and student activities available for purchase.	Workshops and inservices; graduate credit available.	No.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

The Colorado Council on Economic Education provides professional development based on curriculum resources created by the Council on Economic Education. Books on Civics and Government and Institutions and Markets are typical of CCEE's activity-based classroom activities. The lessons integrate economics into topics commonly taught in civics and government. Lesson topics include how the Constitution shaped the U.S. economy, the connection between economic and civil liberties, and the costs and benefits of voting. Teacher classes are taught by a team comprised of an economist and a master teacher.

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<http://www.ccee.net/>

Colorado Mock Trial Program		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Case materials available in hard copy to registered teams; also available free online.	Workshops available.	Regional, state, and national mock trial competitions; \$125 per team registration fee.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

The Colorado High School Mock Trial Program engages students in trying a specified civil or criminal case in a competitive format. Students perform as attorneys and witnesses. Mock trial performances are scored on knowledge and use of rules of evidence, trial procedures, attorney and witness performances, and the conviction of each side's argument (no verdict is rendered). Most schools' mock trial teams are extra- or co-curricular, rather than part of a standard class. Coaching mock trial teams is an excellent opportunity for local attorneys to support schools and young people.

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Colorado Project Citizen		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Student booklets and teacher's guide free with participation in training.	Intensive and workshop-style; follow-up also available.	Project showcase.

Grade Level: 4-12

Description:

In Project Citizen, a program developed by the Center for Civic Education and National Conference of State Legislatures, students work as a whole class or in small groups to address a school, community, or state problem of concern to them. Students are expected to construct and present a portfolio to demonstrate their ability to research, contact policy makers to express concern, and develop proposals for change. One example of a Project Citizen activity comes from Grant Ranch K-8 school where a class of middle school students selected the question: Should car seat belt laws be enhanced? They visited the legislature, emailed experts, and advocated for their ideas concerning enhancements to the law (specifically a car seat requirement for older children). They also conducted an education forum that convinced many parents to upgrade car seats for their children. Students present their completed work to a panel of experts and other students.

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Colorado We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Student texts for elementary, middle, and high school, plus teacher's guides, free with participation in training.	Intensive and workshop-style; follow-up, including teacher study groups, also available.	Simulated congressional hearing, competitive or noncompetitive at high school, noncompetitive at middle and elementary levels.

Grade Level: 4-12

Description:

We the People... The Citizen and the Constitution is a national civic education program coordinated in Colorado by the Center for Education in Law and Democracy (CELD). Directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the U.S. Congress, *We the People* is designed to enable students to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and to foster greater appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy. Paperback student texts and teacher's guides are available for grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Use of the curriculum culminates with a simulated congressional hearing in which students demonstrate their understanding to panels of community members. Participants in regional day-long professional development could further enhance their knowledge and pedagogical skills by attending a four-day summer institute held annually in Denver in June or by participating in teacher study groups that meet regularly to deepen their own understanding of the Constitution and to collaboratively solve pedagogical challenges.

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Colorado Youth in Government		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Colorado Youth in Government is a statewide youth educational program involving more than 200 high school students in a three-month hands-on experience.	No.	Three-day model legislature and court at State Capitol; cost is \$70 per student.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

Colorado Youth in Government is a statewide youth educational program involving more than 200 high school students in a three-month hands-on experience. Students participating in this program gain knowledge of governmental organization as well as legislative process and structure. The program uses a variety of activities to build, encourage, and strengthen those life assets and character traits that will help high school youth become involved responsible adults who are decent and respected citizens. The tool used is a high quality experiential and educational simulation based upon Colorado's state government. The core purpose of this program is exemplified in the motto "Democracy Must Be Learned By Each Generation."

The program is designed to give students the opportunity to participate directly in the major aspects of state government. Students can run for office to become elected youth officials, assess constitutionality as a justice or lawyer, debate legislation as a member of the Senate or House, or work as a reporter with the print and broadcast media.

The program is open to all interested Colorado high school students, whether or not they are members of the YMCA. The sponsoring organizations, usually (but not exclusively) community YMCAs, form one or more delegations by recruiting teenagers at high schools or through teen outreach programs. In some cases, delegations are sponsored directly by schools and other organizations.

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Courts in the Community		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Customized teaching materials based on cases to be heard. Twelve additional lessons covering the Colorado judiciary available online.	Workshops.	Visit by Colorado Supreme Court or Court of Appeals to high school for actual oral arguments.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

Courts in the Community is the Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals' educational outreach program. It gives high school students hands-on experience in how the Colorado judicial system actually works and illustrates how disputes are resolved in a democratic society. The Courts travel to high schools in Colorado to hear two oral arguments at each location. These are not mock trials! They are actual oral arguments from which rulings are determined. Cases are chosen by specifically targeting the interests of students. Each Court issues its rulings anywhere from one to nine months after hearing the arguments.

Four to six weeks prior to the arguments, a three-hour teacher's workshop is presented at the school. Oral arguments are generally held in the morning. The formal event begins with opening remarks welcoming the audience and explaining the format of the proceedings. The court hears two oral arguments during the visit. A question and answer session between the students and participating lawyers follows each argument. The judges or justices join the open dialogue with the students at the conclusion of the second session. A luncheon traditionally hosted by the local bar associations, school, and court wraps up the activities. During this lunch, students selected by their teachers have the opportunity to eat and converse with the justices or judges. Participating lawyers and members of the community can also be invited, depending upon resources.

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Discussing Controversial Issues in the Classroom		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Lesson materials and readings provided with professional development.	Intensive and workshop-style; follow-up also available.	No.

Grade Level: 6-12

Description:

Discussion of controversial issues in the classroom is one of six promising approaches recommended by *The Civic Mission of Schools* report. The Constitutional Rights Foundation and Center for Education in Law and Democracy offer one-day professional development seminars that help participants to (1) define controversial public issues, (2) develop norms for controversial issues discussions, (3) apply criteria for selecting issues, (4) use effective models for classroom discussion, (5) engage reluctant students in discussion, and (6) consider ways of assessing controversial issues discussions. During the seminar, participants have the opportunity to participate in discussions on two locally chosen topics; classroom-ready materials on the topics are provided.

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Facing History and Ourselves		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Lessons, resource books, online modules, video libraries, study guides, and other materials are available, some for purchase, others free.	Intensive and workshop-style training available; online courses and workshops; follow-up support also can be provided.	Optional service project and leadership program.

Grade Level: 7-12

Description:

Facing History and Ourselves offers an interdisciplinary approach to citizenship education that connects the history of the Holocaust, Rwanda, and other examples of genocide to the moral questions young people face in their own lives. We provide middle and high school educators with tools for teaching history and ethics and for helping students learn to combat prejudice with compassion, indifference with participation, and myth and misinformation with knowledge. In addition, students can develop projects to deepen their learning by addressing community issues, such as dialogues with police, workshops to foster understanding between rival groups in the school, service projects to benefit local or international organizations, or leadership programs within the school.

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Foundations of Democracy		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Grade-level specific sets of materials available for purchase.	Intensive and workshop-style.	No.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

Foundations of Democracy consists of four sets of curricular materials for students in grades K-2, 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. Developed by the Center for Civic Education, the materials focus on four core concepts fundamental to an understanding of politics and government: authority, privacy, responsibility, and justice. Features of the curriculum are intellectual tools that help students analyze issues related to each concept and interactive teaching strategies. High school, middle school, and upper elementary materials include student texts and teacher's guides; primary materials include "Big Books," activity books, CD-ROMs, and a teacher's guide.

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Front Range Earth Force		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Educator manual, bilingual student manual, bilingual student “Tips Cards,” video, posters, etc. available with school membership (\$800 for new sites, \$500 per year for ongoing programs; cost is negotiable for low-income schools).	Intensive, workshop-style professional development opportunities. Networking opportunities and educational resources available for service-learning practitioners. Assistance with grant-writing and other fundraising for student projects. In-class assistance and co-facilitation when needed. Planning assistance to meet standards through completed student projects.	(1) Student-directed Service Projects, (2) Youth Voice Launch Youth Council Leadership Training and Introduction, (3) Youth Voice United Youth Council Leadership Conference, (4) Annual Youth Summit at the Denver Zoo, and (5) Year-round participation in Youth Advisory Board (application required).

Grade Level: 4-12

Description:

FrontRange Earth Force offers service-learning programs for youth and professional development opportunities for educators who work directly with youth on how to incorporate service-learning into the classroom. Programs are based on Earth Force’s Community Action and Problem Solving (CAPS) framework. Using CAPS, students learn to identify local concerns, select an issue for further study, conduct a balanced investigation, and then develop and implement a plan leading to the improvement of the local issue. The CAPS process helps students develop confidence, critical thinking skills, environmental awareness, community stewardship, presentation skills, introspection through structured reflection, and the ability to act both as a positive leader and a contributing member of a team. The process is very student-driven, flexible, and fun—but rigorous enough to meet academic content standards in a variety of subjects. Earth Force offers extensive CAPS trainings and ongoing support to educators, after-school advisors, youth workers in community-based organizations, and others who work with youth in and out of school. They also coordinate youth leadership events throughout the school year and in the summer for Earth Force participants.

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Hate Violence Mock Trial Program		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Teaching unit and video.	No.	Mock trial presentation.

Grade Level: 6-12

Description:

Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers visit schools to present a mock trial based on a fictional case arising from violations of Colorado's hate crimes statute. At the conclusion of the trial, small discussion groups of students become “juries” to discuss the issues presented and, with the assistance of an adult facilitator, reach a verdict. The students become very engaged in the discussions of diversity and the value of speaking out against hate and injustice. As a result of several generous grants, volunteers are better able to travel, allowing rural schools to benefit from this program. Tarek Saad chairs this Task Force.

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Kids Voting Colorado		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Lesson plans for elementary, middle, and high school classes; bilingual family activities.	Workshops available.	Voting experience, art poster contest.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

Kids Voting is a nonpartisan program that emphasizes civic engagement by preparing students to be educated, active voters. Students take part in learn-by-doing Kids Voting classroom activities that introduce them to the concepts of citizenship. Kids Voting combines classroom instruction and family dialogue with an authentic voting experience that reflects the official voting process. Students have an opportunity to cast a ballot that replicates the adult ballot—voting on the same issue as adults at the official polling places. Communities that wish to participate must create a community steering committee that will help raise funds to support a local Kids Voting program.

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For a list of local Kids Voting coordinators, see
<http://www.kidsvotingco.org/id17.html>.

Leader's Challenge		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Materials supporting challenges; registration is \$875 per student; scholarships available.	Awareness workshops; adult leaders receive implementation training.	Summer academy, monthly events, culminating service project.

Grade Level: 11

Description:

Through an in-depth academic and experiential learning program, students explore the life skills related to being responsible and active citizens of their community. The Leader's Challenge program provides students with a practical application of classroom and workshop experiences. Throughout the year, Leader's Challenge participants analyze the cause-and-effect relationships behind issues in their community, create and implement ideas to address areas of concern, learn about the structure and functions of our democratic process, reflect on their experiences, and discover how their individual and team efforts can influence social change. Integrating three primary content areas of leadership training, civic engagement, and service learning, students develop the knowledge, skills, and behavior to become agents for change in their community. The curriculum is delivered through participation in a four-day intensive Summer Academy, monthly challenges throughout the school year, and a Final Challenge involving the design of a comprehensive community service project. Generally is done as an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity, rather than in the classroom.

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Learn and Serve Colorado		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
No.	Intensive and workshop-style as well as technical assistance.	Service learning projects

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

Learn and Serve Colorado, in partnership with local, state, and national educators and civic leaders, has developed the Innovation in Civic Learning (ICL) Initiative. The ICL Initiative will expand upon existing service-learning and civics infrastructures to increase K-12 students' civic knowledge, skill, and participation; develop quality programs that link civics, history, and service as the triad of effective practice; and create local civic learning networks to support districts' efforts to expand and improve civic learning opportunities. Learn and Serve Colorado provides training, technical assistance, and strategic planning to help local communities plan and implement service-learning projects.

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http: www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning

Legislators Back to School Program		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Lesson plans, booklets, and videos.	No.	Classroom visits by state legislators.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

America's Legislators Back to School Program, part of NCSL's Trust for Representative Democracy, encourages state legislators to meet personally with young constituents and to answer questions, share ideas, listen to concerns, and impart a greater understanding of the legislative process. The event is designed to teach young people—the nation's future voters and leaders—what it's like to serve as an elected official: the processes, the pressures, and the debate, negotiation, and compromise that are the very fabric of representative democracy.

NCSL offers its series of *Your Ideas Count!* materials to legislators for use in the classroom. These colorful booklets for elementary, middle, and high school students explain that disagreement is a natural part of the legislative process; that debate, negotiation, and compromise are necessary; and that students' chances of being heard are better when they join with a group of people who share their views. Also available is a short video geared for middle and high school. New in 2005 is the video *Citizen Brain: Feeding on Democracy* for upper elementary students. Online resource materials include talking points about legislatures and the legislative process, suggestions for age-group appropriate activities with students, and lesson plans for teachers to use (<http://www.ncsl.org/public/trust/lessonplans.htm>).

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<http://www.ncsl.org/public/backsch.htm/>

Liberty Day		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Liberty Day Factual Content Quiz Cards, pocket Constitutions, one-week unit based on quiz questions, contest activities, and reward materials available for purchase or with grant funding as applicable.	Workshops available. Speakers and community involvement via volunteers from local service groups or high school leadership groups are also available.	Year-round programs for students to quiz adults using their knowledge of the Constitution on Liberty Day (March 16), spring sports venues, Fourth of July, Teacher Appreciation Day, Constitution Day (September 17), and at U.S. Post Offices (early to mid-December)

Grade Level: 4-7

Description:

Liberty Day's purpose is to increase young people's knowledge of the contents, meaning, and significance of our founding documents—the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. It accomplishes this purpose through distribution of pocket-sized Constitutions and Declarations and through engaging students in activity-oriented, community service learning testing of facts learned using Quiz Cards. Students are empowered to increase their reading, writing, and speaking skills while building citizen awareness of the founding documents. Liberty Day supports special events on Liberty Day (March 16, birthdate of James Madison) at the State Capitol and throughout the year at multiple youth-friendly venues with strong parental and community service group involvement and support.

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Peace Jam Foundation		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Elementary and high school units on Nobel Peace Prize Laureates.	Workshops (\$50-\$60); intensive program (\$850).	PeaceJam two-day conference for high school students.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

PeaceJam is an international education program built around leading Nobel Peace Laureates who work personally with youth to pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody. The goal of PeaceJam is to inspire a new generation of peacemakers who will transform their local communities, themselves, and the world. Students study a Peace Laureate, create a Peace Plan, and prepare questions to pose the laureate at the PeaceJam conference.

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Post-News Education		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Lesson plans and class sets of newspapers available free. A new “electronic edition” of both newspapers free.	Free workshops for teachers, staff, and administrators.	Students can apply for grants to support service projects.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

The education department at the Denver Newspaper Agency (*Post* and *News*) offers a variety of programs that promote literacy and civic awareness through standards-based materials that use either the *Denver Post* or the *Rocky Mountain News* as the primary text. Examples of programs are:

- Electronic editions of the *News* and the *Post*.
- Kids Care (grades K-12) teaches students about philanthropy. Includes a teacher's guide, student tabs, and student journals. Students can apply for grants to support service projects.
- Current Events (grades 7-12) helps students learn about their community, their country, and their world to enable them to better become participatory members of a democracy.

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Public Achievement		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Online teacher's guide and other support materials.	Training available for coaches.	Student service projects.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

Public Achievement is a youth civic engagement initiative focused on the most basic concepts of citizenship, democracy, and public work. Public Achievement draws on the talents and desires of ordinary people to build a better world and to create a different kind of politics. Public Achievement's work is anchored on three key ideas: (1) everybody can do citizen work, (2) citizenship isn't easy, and (3) we learn by doing.

Public Achievement engages students, working in small groups, in studying and addressing issues of the students' own choosing. Working with a teacher/coach, students meet once weekly to pursue their projects. Public Achievement is a collaborative university-school project.

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Rocky Mountain PBS		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Unit of four lessons on the Supreme Court and coordinating four-part DVD series. Discussion guides and sampler CD available free with participation in training.	Turnkey training workshops available from January-June 2008.	Screenings of documentary videos prior to broadcast on Rocky Mountain PBS, followed by discussion; free and open to the public.

Grade Level: 7-12

Description:

The Supreme Court: One Nation Under Law is a national outreach initiative funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It is designed to extend the “life after broadcast” of *The Supreme Court* series by using web resources and materials developed by Thirteen/WNET and Street Law, Inc. to engage students nationwide in an ongoing, active study of American history and law. For each of the four programs on the Supreme Court, the program provides a lesson plan; for example, Episode 4, entitled *The Rehnquist Revolution*, is accompanied by a lesson on “The Power and Importance of Precedent.” PBS stations in Colorado, Wisconsin, Texas, and North Carolina have been paired with law-related educational organizations in their communities to develop teacher-training workshops. Rocky Mountain PBS is partnering with the Center for Education in Law and Democracy for this project.

Rocky Mountain PBS also offers free community screenings of documentaries produced for *Independent Lens* and later aired on Rocky Mountain PBS. Sponsored by RMPBS and the Denver Film Society, screenings are held at Starz Film Center and other locations in the Denver Metro Area. Upcoming programs include the following: *An Unreasonable Man* (Ralph Nader); *The Jewish Americans* (epic three-part documentary series covering 350 years of history); *Banished* (banishment by three counties of Africans Americans from towns 100 years ago); *Iron Ladies of Liberia* (documentary on Africa’s first freely elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia).

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 Supreme Court program website: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt>
 Rocky Mountain PBS website: <http://www.krma.org/>

Street Law		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Textbook and ancillaries available for purchase.	Intensive and workshop-style.	No.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

The *Street Law* text provides the basis for a one-semester elective course on the law. Units cover an introduction to the law and legal system, criminal law and juvenile justice, torts, consumer and housing law, family law, and individual rights and liberties. The ancillary materials—including a teacher’s edition, test bank, workbook, videos, and a comprehensive web site—provide for numerous interactive teaching activities to accompany the text. In the Denver area, law students from the University of Denver may be available to assist Street Law teachers.

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Student Legislative Education Day		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
No.	No.	Day at the legislature, date not yet set; most likely in February.

Grade Level: 9-12

Description:

In an effort to assist students in civic education, members of leadership in the Colorado General Assembly are sponsoring a Student Legislative Education Day (SLED). Students from high schools across the state will be at the Capitol interacting with their legislators, participating in mock committee hearings, and watching floor action. We are arranging to put bills on the Senate and House calendar that will be of interest to young people.

Goals of the program are: (1) to educate students about how Colorado state government works, (2) to develop relationships between state legislators and youth, and (3) to create partnerships between the Colorado Legislature, students, teachers, and existing high school classroom-based civic education programs. Each program would provide an option within its programming for teachers and students who want to analyze state issues.

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Thomas Jefferson		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
No.	Intensive professional development to help teachers develop a Young Chautauqua program.	Classroom appearances by Thomas Jefferson.

Grade Level: K-12

Description:

Jack R. Van Ens is a dramatist and historian who portrays Thomas Jefferson for students in grades K-12 so that they may learn Jeffersonian virtues: to reject governmental tyranny, advocate a free press, respect the rights of others, practice tolerance, embrace prudent compromise, and exhibit humility in learning and behavior. Mr. Van Ens suggests that one way to use his program in a regional conference would be in a kick-off session in which he would present Jefferson and his desire to correct the Constitution at two crucial points, limited terms for the presidency and an explicit Bill of Rights.

Through the Colorado Humanities Chautauqua program, Mr. Van Ens also portrays Jonathan Edwards. For more information about that program, contact Colorado Humanities (<http://ceh.org> or info@ceh.org).

Contact:

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VOICE/Primary VOICE/More Perfect Union: Constitutional Rights Foundation Programs in Colorado		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Primary and intermediate, guides \$20 each.	Intensive and workshop-style; follow-up also available.	Service learning project.

Grade Level: 2-3 (Primary VOICE), 4-6 (VOICE), 6-8 [More Perfect Union]

Description:

VOICE and Primary VOICE incorporate conflict resolution, law-related education, and service learning to introduce students to important civic knowledge and give them skills to prevent violence. Primary VOICE is a literature-based curriculum that focuses on four major concepts—governance, responsibility, conflict resolution, and participation. The curriculum builds thinking, problem-solving, reading, reflection, and communication skills. VOICE is a seven-unit curriculum that features a range of interactive strategies, including a simulated legislative hearing and mock trial. Units cover governance, conflict mediation, the conflicts between rights and security, the legislative branch, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and service. Both units culminate with a service learning project that is selected by students.

More Perfect Union is a middle school unit designed to help students learn about the U.S. Constitution and the government that rests upon it. Lessons explore founding documents and principles, the branches of government, individual rights, and participation. The interactive lessons draw upon the promising approaches identified in the Civic Mission of Schools report and develop literacy skills. Authentic assessment tasks are included in the unit.

VOICE, Primary VOICE, and More Perfect Union were developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.

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World Affairs Challenge		
Curriculum	Staff Development	Special Student Event
Lessons on annual theme available to registered teachers at no additional cost.	No.	One-day academic competition on the University of Denver campus.

Grade Level: 6-12

Description:

The World Affairs Challenge encourages young people to discover and explore exciting new content as they work with peers on a collaborative project. Middle and high school students who participate:

- Sharpen research and presentation skills.
- Learn to formulate and defend an argument.
- Develop leadership and negotiation skills.
- Confront real-world scenarios to propose viable solutions.

The program challenges young people to think about their relationship to the rest of the world while taking part in a fun competition. Three events, focused on an overarching annual theme, assess student knowledge about what's going on in the world and highlight students' creativity, analytical, and presentation skills.

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Civic Education Sites on the Web

The sites listed below provide materials, resources, and services useful to civic educators. The list should not be regarded as comprehensive; if you locate or know of sites that you would recommend adding, contact CELD associate Laurel Singleton (singleton@lawanddemocracy.org).

American Bar Association (<http://www.abanet.org/>)

This professional association provides educational materials and resources in the Public Education section of their site. Conversations on the Constitution presents prompts for discussing constitutional issues. Also available from ABA are an annual online youth summit on a current policy issue and a Supreme Court Preview.

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids (<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>)

An introduction to the government for students, adapted for various grade levels. Also includes a list of “U.S. Government Websites for Kids.”

Bill of Rights Institute (<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/>)

Materials and professional development on the Bill of Rights are available from this nonprofit organization.

***Brown v. Board: Five Communities that Changed America
(<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/121brown/index.htm>)***

The National Park Service provides an instructional unit on the five cases that made up the decision commonly referred to as *Brown v. Board of Education*.

***Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools
(<http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/>)***

This site presents advocacy tools, examples of best practice, and other resources for promoting the civic mission of the public schools.

Celebrate Constitution Day! (<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html>)

The National Archives provides resources for teaching about the Constitution.

Center for Civic Education (<http://www.civiced.org/index.php>)

Sample lessons, articles and speeches, and information about the Center's many educational programs.

Center on Congress (<http://congress.indiana.edu/>)

Directed by former Congressman Lee Hamilton, this Indiana University center provides information for adults and young people about the operation of Congress.

***Center for Education in Law and Democracy
(<http://www.lawanddemocracy.org/>)***

Sample lessons, information on research in civic education and professional development, professional development modules on discussion and simulations, and much more.

Center for Information and Research in Civic Learning and Engagement
(<http://www.civicyouth.org/>)

This center at the University of Maryland presents research on civic learning and civic participation among young people. Also available is the 2003 report *The Civic Mission of Schools*.

Choices Project (<http://www.choices.edu/index.cfm>)

Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies presents teaching resources on foreign policy issues. Especially useful is the timely way in which the site addresses current topics in the news.

Close Up Foundation (<http://www.closeup.org/>)

The national Close Up organization provides travel experiences to Washington, DC, for high school students, as well as instructional materials for classroom use.

Constitutional Rights Foundation (<http://www.crf-usa.org/>)

Lessons for teaching about the law, plus a free newsletter, *The Bill of Rights in Action*, and an excellent section on America's response to terrorism.

Constitutional Rights Foundation: Chicago (<http://www.crfc.org/>)

An excellent site for law, civics, and government teachers, with many online lessons and resources.

CourtTV Online (<http://www.courtstv.com/trials/index.html>)

Current and archived material on cases from the cable television channel.

C-SPAN Classroom (<http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>)

Teacher resources designed to facilitate use of C-SPAN's coverage of political events.

Deliberating in a Democracy (<http://www.deliberating.org/>)

This support site for an international civic education project presents materials that can be used to engage students in discussing controversial public issues using the structured academic controversy model.

Educational Curriculum on the Death Penalty

(<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=549&scid=58>)

An online curriculum unit that covers both sides of this controversial legal issue. From the Death Penalty Information Center and Michigan State University.

Famous Trials

(<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm>)

Detailed information about 41 notable trials, as well as an examination of legal heroes. From University of Missouri-Kansas City professor Douglas Linder.

FindLaw (<http://www.findlaw.com/>)

A comprehensive site for investigating legal issues.

Freedom Forum (<http://www.freedomforum.org/>)

An excellent source for information on First Amendment issues; also includes teaching resources.

Global Legal Information Network (<http://www.glin.gov/>)

A searchable database of laws, regulations, and other legal sources deposited at the Library of Congress by nations around the world.

Justice for Kids and Youth (<http://www.usdoj.gov/kidspage/>)

The U.S. Justice Department provides kid-appropriate information on crime prevention, civil rights, and the courts.

Justice Learning (<http://www.justicelearning.org/>)

NPR and *The New York Times* present debates, articles, and lesson plans on such current issues as affirmative action, civil liberties in wartime, and web censorship.

KidsVoting (<http://www.kidsvotingusa.org/>)

Home page of the national educational project focused on voting.

Landmark Supreme Court Cases (<http://www.landmarkcases.org/>)

Street Law and the Supreme Court Historical Society present in-depth teaching materials on 17 landmark Supreme Court cases.

Law-Focused Education (<http://www.texaslre.org/index.html>)

The State Bar of Texas provides a lesson plan archive, a curriculum guide on juries, a game teaching the Pledge of Allegiance, and more.

Law for Kids (<http://www.lawforkids.org/index.cfm>)

The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education presents this large site on the law specifically geared for young people.

Legal Information Institute (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/>)

A comprehensive source of legal information, including information on Supreme Court cases, court opinions, links to laws organized by topic, and more.

McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum (<http://www.freedommuseum.us/>)

Interactive exhibits and curriculum on U.S. freedoms, with particular emphasis on the First Amendment.

***The National Archives and Records Administration
(<http://www.archives.gov/>)***

Resource for teachers and students of government and political science. The Presidential Libraries section links users to websites of the individual libraries.

***National Center for Learning and Citizenship
(<http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/ProjectsPartners>)***

The Education Commission of the States provides information on service learning, policy briefs on civic education, and an assessment database in civic education.

National Conference of State Legislatures (<http://www.ncsl.org/>)

Updates on issues before state legislatures, information about state-federal relations, and links to the sites of state legislatures and state governments. Also provides lesson plans for America's Legislators Back to School Program.

National Constitution Center (<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/>)

A collection of lesson plans and a game on the Bill of Rights are among the resources at this site.

National Report Card: Civics (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/civics/>)

The National Assessment of Educational Progress presents assessment results, a civic education framework, and assessment items.

NewsHour Extra Teacher Resources

(<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/index.html>)

Lesson plans using the resources prepared for student use in conjunction with PBS nightly program, *NewsHour*.

Notable Trade Books for Young People

(<http://www.ncss.org/resources/notable/>)

The National Council for the Social Studies and Children's Book Council provide an annual list of trade books suitable for use in social studies—a good starting point for locating titles for a Civic Bookshelf.

Street Law (<http://www.streetlaw.org/>)

Useful resources for law teachers, plus a link to the support site for the popular *Street Law* text.

Strengthening Civic Education in Colorado Schools

(<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradosocstudies/civics.htm>)

This web site presents materials and reflections from the first year of this Colorado Department of Education initiative.

Student Voices Local Government Curriculum (<http://student-voices.org/teachers/curriculum/index.php?SiteID=1000>)

An eight-unit curriculum on local government, plus a glossary of local government terms.

Supreme Court of the United States (<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>)

The Supreme Court now makes transcripts of oral arguments available the same day the arguments are heard.

U.S. Courts (<http://www.uscourts.gov/>)

Information on the federal courts, statements by federal jurists, FAQs about the courts, educational materials, and links to other sources.

U.S. House of Representatives (<http://www.house.gov/>)

Information about current legislation, committees and committee assignments, and the home pages of current Representatives.

U.S. Senate (<http://www.senate.gov/>)

Information about current legislation, committees and committee assignments, and the home pages of current Senators.

White House Historical Association (<http://www.whitehousehistory.org/>)

Lessons and background information on the White House and the Presidency.

Youth for Justice (<http://www.youthforjustice.org/>)

This collaborative national project in law-related education provides links to state law-related education centers plus resources useful to teachers and program planners.