

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA STATE LAWMAKERS ARE READY TO HEAD BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

AMERICA'S LEGISLATORS BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM KICKS OFF WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19TH

Louisiana state lawmakers are ready to head back to the classroom as they kick-off the America's Legislators Back to School program. Starting the week of September 19th, State Senators and Representatives will be visiting classrooms around the state to teach young people - the nation's future voters and leaders - what it's like to be a state legislator: the processes, debate, negotiation, compromise and consensus that are the very fabric of representative democracy.

The Back to School program is a bi-partisan product of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) civic education initiative, Trust for Representative Democracy. It is an opportunity for young people to meet personally with their elected state lawmakers and for lawmakers to reach out to their youngest constituents.

Begun as a pilot program in 1999, the civic education effort has grown from a one day event to a year long effort, something Louisiana started several years ago. The kick-off week for the 2011 program begins September 19th. Louisiana is currently ranked in the top ten states for participation in the program.

For more information on the Legislators Back to School Program go to www.ncsl.org/public/backsch.htm or www.legis.state.la.us. If you are a principal or teacher wanting to schedule a visit to your school or classroom, please contact Cathy Ortego at 225.342.1111 for senators or Kathleen Randall at 225.342.7259 for representatives.