



LOUISIANA SENATE

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LA STATE LAWMAKERS ARE READY TO HEAD BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Louisiana state lawmakers are ready to head back to the classroom as part of America's Legislators Back to School program. Starting this week, 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 effort 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. As part of the program, teachers and students are provided research and informational materials to better their understanding of the legislative process.

Begun as a pilot program in 1999, the civic education effort has grown from a one day event to a year long effort. The kick-off week for the 2012 program began September 17th. 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. Principals and teachers are encouraged to invite legislators into their classrooms and can find contact information on this Web site.

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