

Dear Valued Teachers and Social Studies Coordinators:

Georgia iCivics ended 2016 with a bang and is off-and-running in 2017, and we wanted to catch you up on all of the happenings and accomplishments. We also have some great new information and opportunities for iCivics. Perhaps the best news of all is that we recently learned that during 2016, Georgia iCivics saw tremendous increases in users—from 177,800 new users to more than a quarter of a million new users! This is an increase of over 25 percent in new iCivics users and an over 35 percent increase in new iCivics sessions! This is outstanding news for teachers and students, and there are many more opportunities to continue to increase users and usage time for iCivics in Georgia.

Happenings

- At the Georgia School Board Association annual conference in December, iCivics trainer Dr. Jane Brailsford and iCivics Committee Chair Evelyn Fletcher Davis introduced and explained how iCivics provides school districts and teachers with free, inventive, and well-written resources they need to educate students on and encourage active participation in government and civic engagement, and will highlighted how effective iCivics has already been in several school districts in Georgia.
- Last month we trained middle and high school teachers in Augusta-Richmond County, and are working on scheduling training for Savannah-Chatham County, Atlanta-Fulton County, Heart of Georgia RESA, Greene County, and Randolph County. If your school, school district, or RESA would like to schedule iCivics training, please contact us!
- We have organized an iCivics game competition for two middle schools in Hall County in which students compete for the most points on iCivics games for an award and recognition for themselves, their teacher, and their school. We are working on having local dignitaries and members of the bar and judiciary on hand to present awards to the winning students.
- Judge Dorothy Beasley recently introduced iCivics to Cherokee County schools and to Goshen Valley Boys Ranch for foster boys, in Waleska, Ga.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- On May 1st of each year, the United States officially recognizes Law Day. It is meant to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of the country and to recognize its importance for society. This day was first proclaimed to be Law Day in 1958, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and its observance was later codified by Public Law 87-20 on April 7, 1961. We encourage you to plan an event using iCivics in conjunction with this significant date!
- Reminder: Textbooks are now a local matter in Georgia. There is no longer an approved list from the state and no longer textbook adoption fairs statewide. iCivics offers totally a free textbook resource for teachers. Keep www.iCivics.org in mind when exploring options for texts and teaching materials.
- iCivics is looking for excited and engaged educators, curriculum developers, teacher trainers, and social studies and technology specialists who want to take their relationship with iCivics to the next level! Join our network of individuals across the country who are just as passionate about educating

the next generation of citizens as we are. As an iCivics Educator Network member you will have opportunities to:

- Participate in iCivics professional learning opportunities
- Develop and lead teacher trainings
- Write blog posts for iCivics.org
- Respond to media requests
- Test new iCivics products

. . . and so much more. Sound fun? Apply Today! Visit <https://www.icivics.org/our-network>.

- When you sign up as a teacher on iCivics, you get timely updates on new teaching content, games, and contests for your students. Please be sure to go <https://www.icivics.org/register> to register today! Don't miss out!

Here is what 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year says about iCivics

“Good teaching requires getting and keeping a student’s attention. 21st Century schools are much different for educators as we now have to compete with social media and smart phones. Rather than trying to fight students’ technology habits, teachers can look at what interest students and teach to their interest. When teaching U.S. Government and Civics, iCivics does this extremely well.”

iCivics exists to engage students in meaningful civic learning. It provides civics teachers well-written, inventive, and free resources that enhance their practice and inspire their classrooms. iCivics’ mission is to ensure every student receives a high-quality civic education, and becomes engaged in the classroom and beyond. What I like about this program is that it uses creative approaches that get students’ attention using video, video games, class room games, and real life situations that draws students in to learning. The student is having fun but leaning at the same time. As a teacher, this is a win-win. The iCivics curriculum makes civics and government comes alive when students are engaged and actively learning. This program can be life changing for both students and teachers.”

As a reminder the iCivics Committee can also provide attorneys in the classroom to assist teachers in setting up gaming competitions or help with lesson plans. This can be done on any day during the school year that fits in with a block of your instruction. Please let us know if you want us to provide this for you.

Thank you for all that you do for our communities. Please let us know how the iCivics Committee can be of service to you. Please pass along to us comments on how you are using iCivics and your successes in doing so as this helps us in advocating for continued support of Georgia iCivics.

“The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens.” Justice Sandra Day O’Connor

Warmest Regards,
Evelyn Fletcher Davis
Chair, iCivics Committee