

Dear Valued Teachers, Social Studies Coordinators and Administrators:

Georgia iCivics has had a very exciting and busy fall, 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.

### Happenings

- The 52nd annual Georgia Council for Social Studies Conference was held on Oct. 13-14 at the Classic Center in Athens, Ga. More than 700 educators and friends of social studies chose from an array of keynote and breakout sessions about Change-Challenge-Opportunity, the theme for the 2016 conference. In addition to a display in the vendor hall, Dr. Jane Brailsford, iCivics Master Trainer, presented a well-attended break-out session: “iCivics—A Digital Tool Every Teacher Should Know.” New inquirers and veteran users of iCivics alike came to the presentation and to the iCivics table to find out what is new for teachers and students on the iCivics.org website. Attorney Todd Alley and Judge Dorothy Beasley explained how members of the State Bar of Georgia are available as classroom speakers on topics the teacher chooses and how teachers can sign up to have a local lawyer available for their school or classroom. More than 175 educators stopped by the iCivics vendor table to pick up materials and talk about iCivics and the opportunities for free training and for the State Bar of Georgia Speakers Bureau for schools across the state. We rate the conference and the iCivics participation a huge success.



- Stacey Sanchez, a 5th grade teacher at Jackson Elementary School in Gwinnett County, one of the teachers who attended the Social Studies Expo, had a glowing review of her use of iCivics in the classroom:

*“My students absolutely LOVE iCivics! They are fully engaged in learning about their civic rights and responsibilities when they play the games. The games have helped them grasp the ideas of the Bill of Rights and how each amendment pertains to them. I have found that they are able to explain the government concepts to me in a way that is deeper than just reciting amendments and giving basic facts. I have also utilized the lesson plans for teachers when planning activities for my classroom discussions. iCivics is a wonderfully useful and engaging tool to use in the classroom on a regular basis!”*

- In September, Evelyn Davis, Judge Dorothy Beasley and Linda Pierce met with Merry Hunter Hipp, the Education Policy Advisor to Governor Nathan Deal and discussed with her the uses and benefits of iCivics. Our interest in the implementation of iCivics as a curriculum tool throughout the State was also discussed. Additionally, an idea was proposed to hold a first annual iCivics competition in which the winning school or class would receive a prize and hopefully a visit from First Lady Deal, herself a former educator. Please let us know if you have an interest in a game competition for your school.
- We reached out to more than 350 educators and administrators involved in the Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) throughout Georgia to introduce them to iCivics and to offer free training for teachers and coordinators.

### **Upcoming Events and Opportunities**

- At the Georgia School Board Association annual conference on December 2nd, iCivics trainer Dr. Jane Brailsford and Georgia Bar iCivics Committee Chair Evelyn F. Davis will introduce and explain 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. They will highlight how effective iCivics has already been in several school districts in Georgia.
- 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 a totally free textbook resource for teachers. Please keep [www.iCivics.org](http://www.iCivics.org) in mind when exploring options for texts and teaching materials. Try it!
- 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 you and 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 productsSound interesting and fun? Apply Today! Visit <https://www.icivics.org/our-network>.

As a reminder, the iCivics Committee can also provide attorneys in the classroom to assist teachers in setting up game 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 you do for our children. Please let us know how the Georgia iCivics Committee can be of help to you. Also, we would be grateful to know how you are using iCivics and your successes in doing so as this helps us in advocating for continued support of Georgia iCivics.

Warmest Regards,  
Evelyn Fletcher Davis  
Chair, iCivics Committee