

IMPLEMENTING FLORIDA'S CIVICS LITERACY EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

John Duebel

Director of Social Studies
and the Arts

*Bureau of Standards and
Instructional Support*

David Fechtel

Program Manager

Florida Civics and Debate Initiative





The SESSION GOAL

Provide charter school leaders with updated information regarding the implementation of Florida's Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative.

SESSION TOPICS

- ✓ *Professional Development*
- ✓ *Florida Civics Seal of Excellence Course*
- ✓ *“Portraits in Patriotism”*
- ✓ *K-12 Civics Education Curriculum*
- ✓ *K-12 Integrated Civics Curriculum*
- ✓ *Civics Coaches and Captains*
- ✓ *Florida Civics and Debate Initiative*

FLORIDA'S CIVICS LITERACY EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

“ *Governor Ron DeSantis*
is **LEADING THE CHARGE**
for Florida to become the
NUMBER ONE STATE *in the*
nation **FOR CIVICS EDUCATION,**
and we are well on our way. ”

Florida Commissioner of Education
Manny Diaz, Jr.



PRIORITIES FOR CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA'S K-12 SCHOOLS



Students study primary source documents to understand the philosophical underpinnings of the American Republic and the root foundation of American exceptionalism.



Students compare the success of the United States and the success or failure of other nations' governing philosophies to evaluate their past, present and likely future effects.



Students have a sense of civic pride and participate regularly in all levels of government.






Students reflect upon United States civic history so they understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, including the process of advocating properly with government officials.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Teacher Trainings

CONSISTED OF

-  *Training on revised standards*
-  *Rich content aligned to the revised standards*
-  *High yield instructional strategies using revised standards*



BY THE NUMBERS



15

CONTENT RICH CIVICS PD WAS OFFERED AT 15 REGIONAL LOCATIONS IN THE SUMMERS OF 2022 AND 2023.



5,000

EDUCATORS
ATTENDED

COMPLETED SURVEYS

Participants completed surveys at the end of each breakout session.

88%

OF ATTENDEES STATED THE SESSIONS ENHANCED THEIR CIVICS CONTENT KNOWLEDGE.

87%

OF ATTENDEES STATED THE PRESENTERS EFFECTIVELY MODELED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/PEDAGOGY.

The
FLORIDA
CIVICS
SEAL OF
EXCELLENCE
Course



Course Launch:
January 13, 2023

All cohorts were filled
within 4 days of launch.

→ *55-hour online program*

→ *Consists of an introduction and 5 modules aligned to the revised K-12 CG standards.*

Introduction Purpose and importance of this program

Module 1 The ideas and events that led to America's independence

Module 2 The debates and events that led to creating a more perfect Union

Module 3 The Constitution

Module 4 Securing liberty and equality for all Americans

Module 5 The Self-Governing American Citizen



The
FLORIDA
CIVICS
SEAL OF
EXCELLENCE
Course



The Civics Seal of Excellence Course is a first-of-its-kind video-based program.



28 Hours of Video Lessons

The course contains approximately 28 hours of video lessons delivered by some of Florida and the nation's foremost authorities on American History, civics and government.



Primary Source Documents

Participants reflect upon primary source documents and are provided with additional recommended research materials.



Available for Classrooms

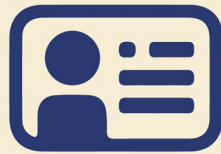
Course content is available for teachers to use for instruction in their classroom.



The
FLORIDA
CIVICS
SEAL OF
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Course



STIPENDS AND ENDORSEMENTS



All teachers with a valid Florida teaching license, who are employed by a public district/charter, are eligible for the stipend.



We only opened seats that we had stipends for.



Payment to the districts is automatically generated at the end of each cohort cycle and the district is provided a list of teachers for distribution.

**Districts are responsible for distributing the stipends following their own policies and procedures regarding withholdings.*



When an educator completes the course, they receive a unique certificate of completion and can then apply to add the endorsement through the Bureau of Educator Certification.



“

Great course I learned more than I ever did in my formative schooling and I'm encouraging all the teachers I know to take it.”

The
FLORIDA
CIVICS
SEAL OF
EXCELLENCE
Course



“

This course has given me hope in our republic and the future of our youth. I hope this becomes a mandated endorsement across the nation...”

“

Being of African descent I was a little skeptical about learning the history of the country in fear of getting upset... I have learned the good and bad of American history and have developed a respect for the government and the Founders for seeing a vision that would surpass the norm of that time and truly create a united nation.

House Bill 5:
**“PORTRAITS IN
PATRIOTISM”**
*Oral History
Resources*

What are “Portraits in Patriotism?”

Oral history resources to be used along with the K-12 civics education curriculum.

Provides “Portraits in Patriotism” based on the personal stories of diverse individuals who demonstrate civic-minded qualities, including first-person accounts of victims of other nations’ governing philosophies who can compare those philosophies with those of the United States.



K-12 CIVICS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- ➔ *A teacher guide*
- ➔ *Student text materials*
- ➔ *Primary source documents*
- ➔ *Inclusion of materials from B.E.S.T. English Language Arts Civic Literacy Reading List*
- ➔ *Embedded videos*
(could include “Portraits in Patriotism” content)
- ➔ *Interactive/collaborative activities*
- ➔ *Assessments*

K-12 INTEGRATED CIVICS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- ➔ *A teacher guide*
- ➔ *Student text materials*
- ➔ *Primary source documents*
- ➔ *Inclusion of materials from B.E.S.T. English Language Arts Civic Literacy Reading List*
- ➔ *Embedded videos*
(could include “Portraits in Patriotism” content)
- ➔ *Interactive/collaborative activities*
- ➔ *Assessments*



K-12 CIVICS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Comprehensive Instructional Tool

- ➔ *Curricular resources will serve as a **comprehensive** primary instructional tool for civics and government content or be used as supplemental resources available to all users regardless of whether they adopted an instructional material for civics or government courses.*
- ➔ *Funds are also being provided to LEAs to support the purchase of best practice civics curriculum and supplemental civics materials.*



K-12 INTEGRATED CIVICS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Supplemental Resource

- ➔ *Curricular resources will serve as **supplemental** integrated civics resources available to all users that will provide resources for teachers to incorporate civics content into other subject areas.*
- ➔ *Funds are also being used to product free professional development for teachers on how to use the new integrated resources.*



Facilitating Civics
Seal of Excellence
Course.

Creating Instructional
Guides for revised K-12
civics and government
standards

REGIONAL CIVICS LITERACY TEAM

4 captains • 20 coaches
fully staffed

Reviewing
Integrated Civics
curricula materials.

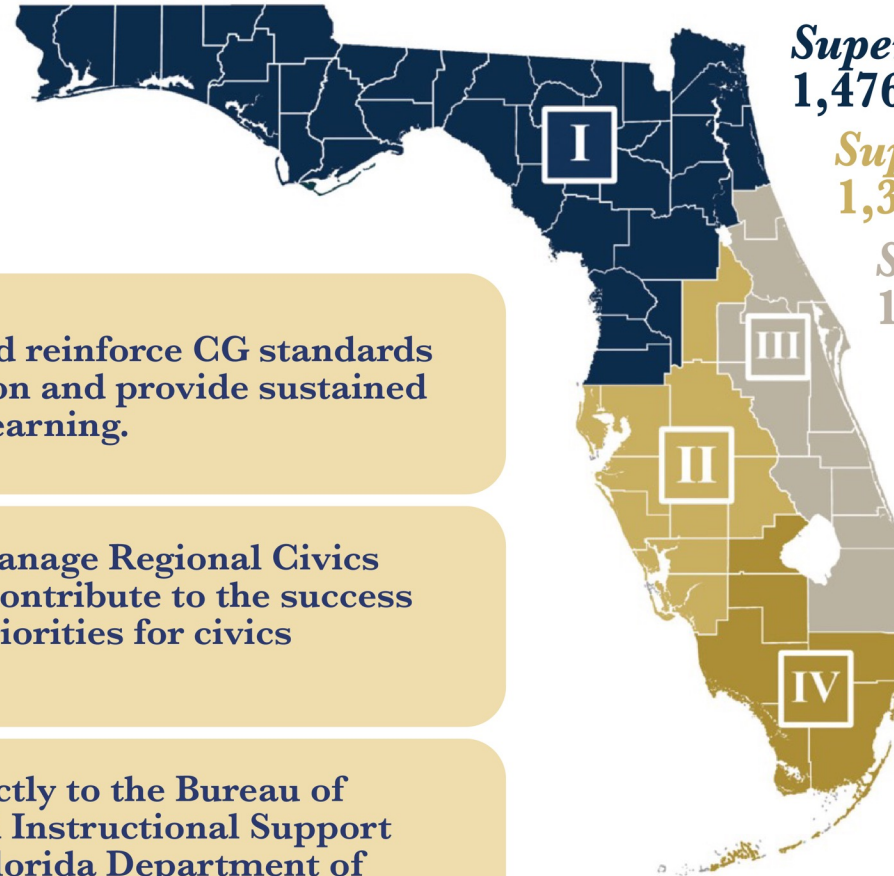
*Researching and
creating* breakout
sessions for professional
learning.

Reviewing
K-12 Civics Curricula
materials.

What is the role of a REGIONAL CIVICS LITERACY CAPTAIN?

REGIONAL CIVICS
LITERACY TEAM
4 captains • 20 coaches
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Civics & U.S. Government Teachers



✓ To support and reinforce CG standards implementation and provide sustained professional learning.

✓ To lead and manage Regional Civics Coaches and contribute to the success of Florida's priorities for civics excellence.

✓ To report directly to the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) at the Florida Department of Education (FDOE).

✓ To work in an identified region in the state to provide targeted services and supports to schools, districts and consortium.



What is the role of a REGIONAL CIVICS LITERACY CAPTAIN?



To support and reinforce CG standards implementation, provide sustained professional learning and contribute to the success of Florida's priorities for civic literacy.

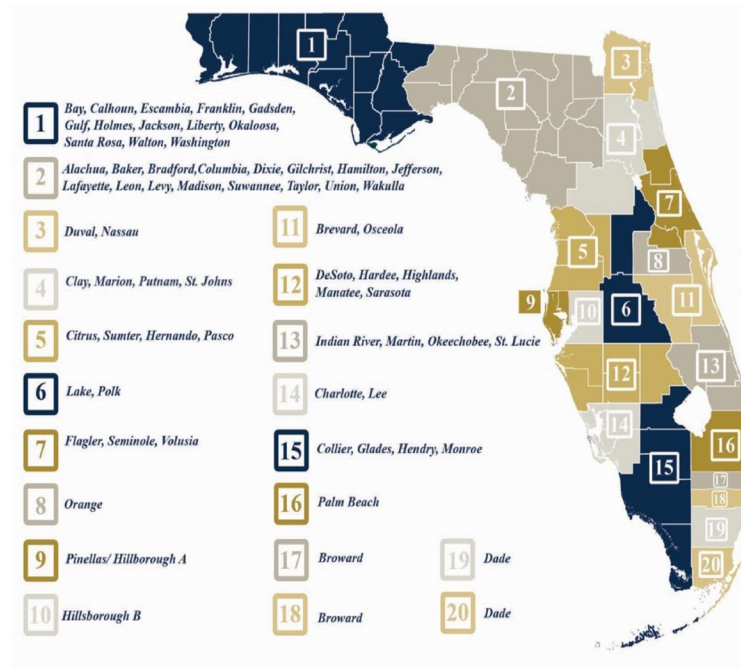


To support the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) initiatives and serve under the leadership of the Bureau Chief/Director and Regional Civics Captains.



To work in an identified region in the state to provide targeted services and support to schools, districts and consortium.

REGIONAL CIVICS
LITERACY TEAM
4 captains • 20 coaches
fully staffed



What is the role of a REGIONAL CIVICS LITERACY CAPTAIN?

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STATEWIDE ROLE

- ➔ Develops and facilitates summer professional learning.
- ➔ Reviews and creates standards aligned resources.
- ➔ Facilitates the Civics Seal of Excellence course.

AT A LOCAL LEVEL

- ➔ Supports district leadership including directors, specialists and coaches.

- ▶ *Provides updates for district and school-based leadership.*

- ▶ *Hosts professional development for teachers.*

- ➔ Supports classroom implementation of CG standards.

- ▶ *Comparative Standards: Focusing on the revised CG standards*

- ▶ *High Yield Practices to Elevate Civic Literacy*

- ▶ *Standards-Based Planning for Civics and Government*

- ▶ *BOLO! Be on the Lookout!: Analyzing Primary Sources*



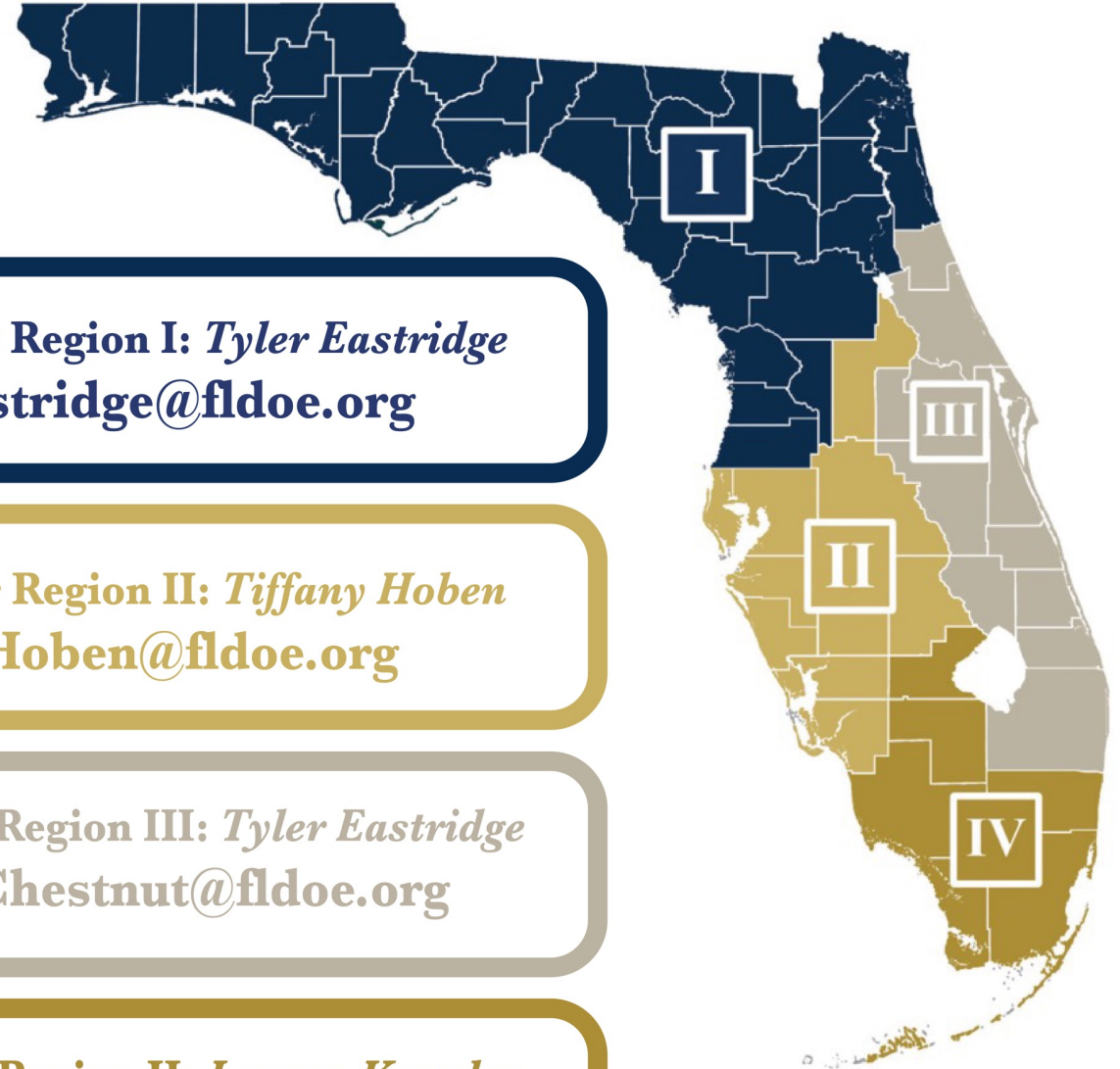
How Do I
REQUEST
SUPPORT?

Captain, Super Region I: *Tyler Eastridge*
Tyler.Eastridge@fldoe.org

Captain, Super Region II: *Tiffany Hoben*
Tiffany.Hoben@fldoe.org

Captain, Super Region III: *Tyler Eastridge*
Kenneth.Chestnut@fldoe.org

Captain, Super Region II: *Lauren Kappler*
Lauren.Kappler@fldoe.org



The FLORIDA CIVICS & DEBATE Initiative

“*This is*
REMARKABLE.”

“We know from years of research that **debate programs build civic capacities**. Students who participated in the first two years of the Florida Civics & Debate Initiative already **show higher rates of classroom participation, civic-minded projects and volunteering than their peers**, even during a pandemic. This is remarkable.”

Dr. Ashley Berner

Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy (2021)

THE MISSION

The mission of the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative is to create access and opportunities for all students to have the best civics education including curriculum, debate programs, and high-quality teachers that are catalysts for students becoming great citizens who can preserve our constitutional republic for future generations.



FCDI programs have seen increases in civic knowledge of their students.



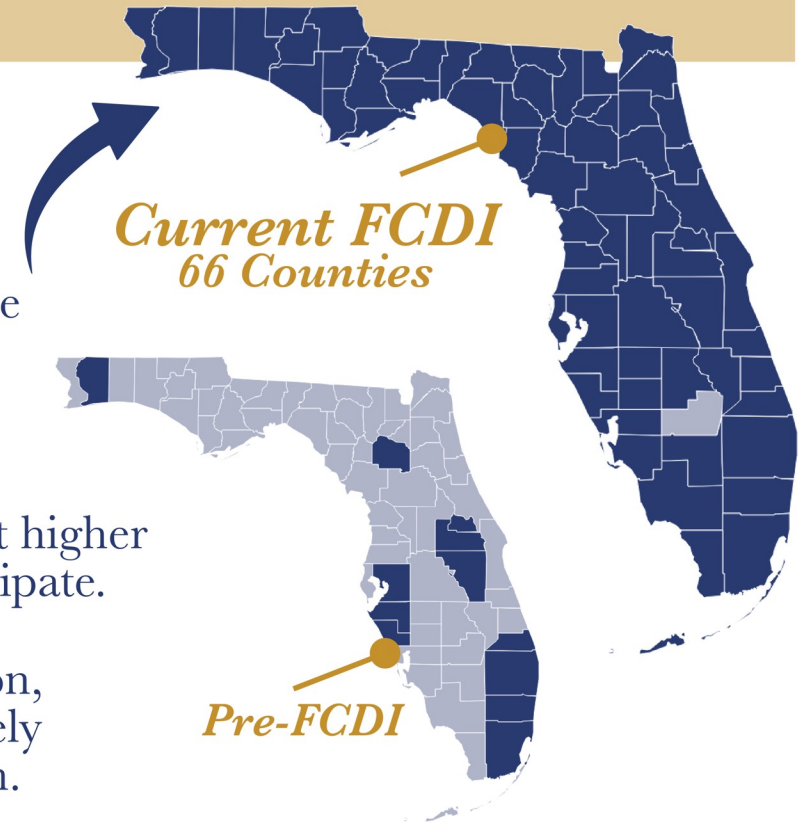
FCDI recruitment efforts increase access for racial minorities and low-income students.



Students involved with FCDI volunteer in their communities at higher rates than those who don't participate.



FCDI students learn collaboration, compassion and respect, ultimately building a strong civic disposition.



THE CURRENT STATE OF CIVICS



**FEWER THAN
HALF**

OF AMERICANS CAN
CORRECTLY NAME THE
THREE BRANCHES OF
GOVERNMENT.

We the People

1 IN 5 AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT THE
FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS OF THE U.S.
CONSTITUTION ARE CALLED THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
RATHER THAN THE BILL OF RIGHTS.



17%

ONLY 17% OF THE
ENTIRE U.S. ELECTORATE
IS IN THE AGE GROUP
OF 18-29 YEARS.



70%

70% OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
MALE DEBATE PARTICIPANTS
ARE MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE
THAN THOSE WHO DID NOT
PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE.



87%

DEBATE CAN INCREASE
CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS
BY AS MUCH AS 87%.



98.5%

98.5% OF DEBATE STUDENTS
ATTEND COLLEGE, AND
DEBATE PARTICIPATION
INCREASES THE CHANCE OF
BEING OFFERED COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS.



EXPANSION & GROWTH

SINCE INITIAL LAUNCH IN JANUARY 2019

365 **TO** TOTAL IMPACTED
6,231 **TEACHERS**

40,392 **TO** TOTAL IMPACTED
766,392 **STUDENTS**



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provided over 760 hours of professional development in civics and debate to 3,225 debate coaches and social studies teachers



3,000 teachers reached by the second Civics Professional Development Series provided in partnership with the Florida Department of Education



185 debate coaches participated in professional development throughout the school year to learn how to enhance their coaching skills



40 debate coaches attended one of three 3-day coach clinics held concurrently with our summer camps



END-OF-COURSE PASSAGE RATES

ON MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVICS AND
HIGH SCHOOL U.S. HISTORY

*Civics end-of-course
passage rate*

*History end-of-course
passage rate*

SCHOOL YEAR
2020-2021

67% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

63% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

SCHOOL YEAR
2021-2022

72% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

*Statewide schools went
from 64% to 69%

69% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

*Statewide schools went
from 63% to 65%



THE GREAT DEBATE

THE NATIONAL CIVICS AND DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

GROWTH AND EXPANSION

2021

1 STATE REPRESENTED

152 STUDENTS

26 SCHOOLS

2022

3 STATES REPRESENTED

340 STUDENTS

38 SCHOOLS

4 BEFORE HURRICANE NICOLE

2023

PROJECTION

7 STATES REPRESENTED

400 STUDENTS

60 SCHOOLS



TRIATHLON STYLE

- ✓ Students compete through a triathlon-style event to demonstrate a broader command of skills, including civics, debate, and speech events in the competition offerings.

EXPERIENCE

- ✓ Students are required to have competed in at least two prior debate competitions to lay the framework for successful participation at the national level.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ Students are offered scholarships to attend, allowing more access to under-served populations, and more equity in the students participating in the competition.

THE
DIFFERENCE
The Great Debate
vs. other National
Competitions

Contact the Presenters

John Duebel
John.Duebel@fldoe.org
850.245.0504

Director of Social Studies
and the Arts

*Bureau of Standards and
Instructional Support*

David Fechtel
David.Fecht1@fldoe.org
850.245.0504

Program Manager

Florida Civics and Debate Initiative

THANK YOU

