

# *NJ Social Studies Network News*

*A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education*

**Fall 2008**

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## **Professional Development**

*In addition to the workshops listed below, the Center offers [in-service workshops](#) to meet the specific needs of your district.*

*Fall 2008*

### ***LAST CALL! We the People Professional Development Workshop for New Jersey Upper Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers***

We will be offering a 5-hour *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* [workshop](#) on Wednesday, *October 22, 2008* at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Teachers will receive 5 professional development hours and may order a *free* classroom set of textbooks. More information and a [registration form](#) can be found on our website. The registration fee is \$30. The deadline to register has been extended to October 13th.

[We the People](#) provides background in political philosophy, government, and the Bill of Rights. The curriculum is useful as a stand-alone course or as part of a U.S. history, civics, or government course. Materials are available for upper elementary, middle, and high school grades, and best of all, they're FREE!

### **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference**

The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS), the umbrella social studies organization for the state, will be holding its annual conference on October 27, 2008 in East Windsor. [Click here](#) for a program schedule and additional information about the conference. Among the offerings at the conference will be a one-hour overview of the *We the People* curriculum and the [Conflict Resolution and U.S. History](#) curriculum package. The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association will also be holding a meeting for new members at the conference.

Social studies teachers and supervisors are encouraged to join NJCSS. Membership information is available on the Council's [website](#).

### ***Conflict Resolution and U.S. History to be featured at the NJEA Convention***

A case study from the [Conflict Resolution and United States History](#) curriculum package for grades 5-12 will be demonstrated at the New Jersey Education Association Convention in Atlantic City on November 7, 2008. The case study "Labor Strife during the Industrial Development of America and Implications for Today: The Paterson Silk Strike." More information on the NJEA Convention is available on its website at [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org).

### ***Panel Discussion and Dialogue on Religion and Public Schools***

As part of our continuing partnership with Senegal and our new partnership with Serbia through the [Civitas International Program](#), we are sponsoring a panel discussion and dialogue featuring international perspectives on the role of religion and public schools. The event will take place on *November 11, 2008* at the Rutgers University Inn and Conference

Center in New Brunswick. A reception will begin at 4 p.m., with the panel discussion and dialogue from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Contact [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) or 732-445-3413 by November 4th to register or for more information.

### *Winter 2009*

#### ***Project Citizen Professional Development Workshop for New Jersey Middle and High School Teachers***

We will be offering a 5-hour [workshop](#) in New Brunswick at the New Jersey Law Center demonstrating *Project Citizen* materials on *January 14, 2009*. Teachers will receive 5 professional development hours and may order a *free* classroom set of textbooks. The [registration form](#) for this workshop is available online. The registration fee is \$30.

[Project Citizen](#) is a project-based, service learning program that involves students in developing citizenship skills by identifying, investigating and developing a public policy solution to a community problem. The materials (also free!) can be integrated into almost any course and correlate with language arts, math, science and technology as well as social studies core content standards. For comments by teachers using the materials, [click here](#).

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## **Upcoming Student Events in New Jersey**

### *Winter 2009*

#### ***New Jersey State We the People High School Simulated Legislative Hearings***

The 2008-2009 *We the People* High School Hearings will take place on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at the New Jersey State House in Trenton. Teachers planning on bringing a class to participate to this event must contact [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) by November 1, 2008. [Additional details](#) about the simulated legislative hearings, including district and state level questions, can be found on our website. Teachers who are not bringing a class to participate are welcome to observe the hearings. Please contact our office for additional details.

### *Spring 2009*

#### ***New Jersey State We the People Middle School Simulated Legislative Hearings***

New Jersey *We the People* Simulated Legislative Hearings for Middle School Students will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Please contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) if you are interested in bringing a class to the event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click here](#) for more information on the *We the People* simulated legislative hearings, including middle school hearing questions.

#### ***Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation***

This academic year's *Project Citizen* Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation will be held on Friday, June 5, 2009 at Rutgers University in Piscataway. The New Jersey *Project Citizen* Showcase is open to grades 5 - 12. Please contact us at [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu) if you are interested in bringing a class to this event, or if you would like to observe it. For more information on the *Project Citizen* portfolio showcase, [click here](#).

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## Resources for Teachers

### *Conflict Resolution and U.S. History*

The [Conflict Resolution and United States History](#) curriculum package for grades 5-12 is an innovative approach to teaching U.S. history. The package includes two volumes with 20 case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period to the 1990s. Each volume includes a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and PowerPoints for each case study and a DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in roleplaying historical figures using conflict resolution skills. You only need to order one package per teacher rather than one per student.

Additional information on the curriculum package, a [sample lesson](#), and an [order form](#) are available on our website.

### *Africa Lessons*

Through our 5-year partnership with Senegal via the [Civitas International Program](#), we have developed a number of lessons on African history - from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century. These [free lessons, in 8 separate units](#), are available on our website. Most of the units are designed for grades 6-12, while others are more appropriate for high school students.

### *Civitas Pen Pal Program*

Would you like your middle or high school students to have a unique opportunity to pen pal with students in West Africa or Serbia? Send an email request with your name, school, grade, course and number of students to [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu). An 18-minute DVD about the partnership between New Jersey and Senegal is available for you to show your students. Contact us if you would like a copy.

### *Law, Literature and Society*

Law, Literature, and Society provides [20 online interdisciplinary lessons](#) that integrate literature, history, geography and law for grades 4-12.

### *Legislators Back to School Program*

October is **Legislators Back to School** month! To have your legislator(s) visit your school, go to [Find Your Legislator](#) on the New Jersey Legislature's website, [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us), for the name and contact information about your state legislators. For more about the Legislators Back to School Program, [click here](#) or call 609-292-4661. NJCLRE also offers lessons to use with your legislators. We will send you any of the listed lessons if you complete an [online request form](#).

### *Tours of the New Jersey State House*

Want to learn about your state government first-hand? State House tours are available Mondays through Fridays for grades 3-12 (one hour) or grades 2-3 (30 minutes) or take a 15 minute peak (grades K-12) by calling 609-633-2709. Eagleton Institute of Politics' [State House Express Program](#) provides \$300 grants to schools to offset the costs of bringing middle and high school classes to the State House and to enable your students to participate in a "Make a Law" mock legislative session. For more information contact Gloria Minor at [gminor@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:gminor@rci.rutgers.edu) or at 732-932-9384, ext. 245.

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## Social Studies Issues

### Update on the New Jersey High School Graduation Requirement Recommendations

On Sept. 17, 2008 the NJ State Board of Education heard testimony on the following recommendation regarding high school graduation requirements:

“At least 15 credits in social studies, including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1,2; 5 credits in world history; and the integration of civics, economics and geography and global content in all course offerings;  
“At least 2.5 credits in financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy, effective with 2010-2011 grade nine class;”

Twenty individuals and organizations testified. Arlene Gardner testified on behalf about the NJ Center for Civic and Law-Related Education, the NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association and the NJ Coalition to Support the Civic Mission of Schools, and recommended the following language to require a course in civics and an economics course clearly within social studies:

“At least 20 credits in social studies, including 10 credits to satisfy N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 2; 5 credits in world history; and, effective with 2010-2011 grade nine, at least 2.5 credits in financial and economic literacy, and at least 2.5 credits in civic literacy. Civic, economics, geography and global education may be integrated in other course offerings as long as the course syllabus indicates sufficient time for the required credits.”

This would enable schools flexibility to incorporate civics and economics in other courses or to offer on-line, distance or college courses as long as the necessary requirements are met. The Commissioner of Education is interested in four years of math. The Governor is interested in financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy. See the [September 21, 2008 Op Ed article in the Star-Ledger](#) supporting civics as a high school graduation requirement.

A bill (A278) has also been introduced to provide for a pilot economics financial literacy pilot program over the next three years.

Make your views known by writing to Commissioner Lucille Davy, Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer and members of the State Board of Education at the NJ Department of Education, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500. You can also find your state legislator on-line by [clicking here](#).

Also, note that the NJ State Department of Education has been in the process of revising the social studies standards since June. The six current strands of social studies - skills, civics, economics, geography, US and NJ history, and world history - will be collapsed into two standards with essential questions to integrate the strands. No proposed revisions have been made public to date.

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Thanks for your support, and please feel free to contact our office with any questions, or for additional information on any of the programs we offer.

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