



FLORIDA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Florida Civics & Debate Initiative

“It is imperative that today’s students understand our government’s structure and the way in which the Constitution, federal, and state laws empower them to become ACTIVE, PRODUCTIVE, CITIZENS.”

Governor Ron DeSantis



Only 2 in 5 Americans can correctly name the three branches of government.

As of November 2018, only 46% of 18-24-year-olds were registered to vote.

1 in 5 Americans believe that the first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution are called the Declaration of Independence.

98.5% of debate students attend college, and debate participation increases the chance of being offered college scholarships.

70% of African American male debate participants are more likely to graduate than those who did not participate in debate.

Debate can increase critical thinking skills by as much as 44%.

Understanding the Policy Impact

Over the past several years, the Florida Legislature has made a consistent effort to improve civic and US history education.

“In response to a 2010 law that requires a middle school civics course and exam, Florida created a test that's widely seen as the best current example of a comprehensive and in-depth test of civics knowledge. First administered in 2013-14, it's a 2 ½-hour digital multiple-choice test. But experts say it sets a new standard for questions that demand high levels of complex thinking.”

To fulfill the mission to ensure the K-20 education system prepares students to become “civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive contributions to their community” the following policies were enacted:

Requiring Florida’s academic standards to include civics content in K-8 and in grades 9-12 (SB 1908 2008).

Require each middle school student to complete at least one half-credit course in civics and take the statewide, standardized civics EOC (HB 105 2010).

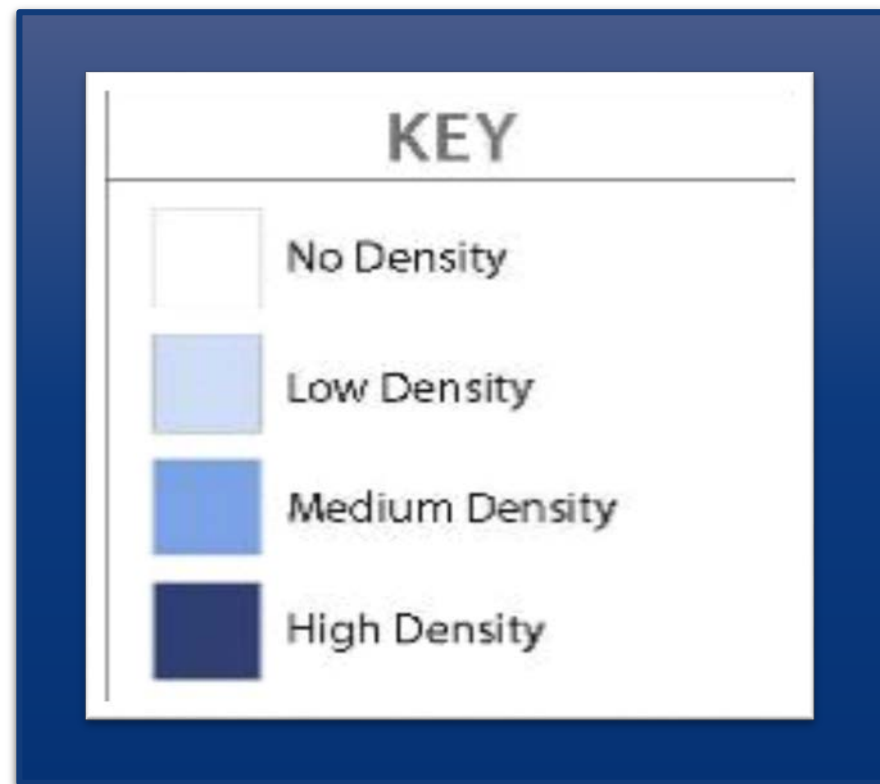
Allowing hours a high school student devotes to debate and speech program count towards service work requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (HB 807 2019).



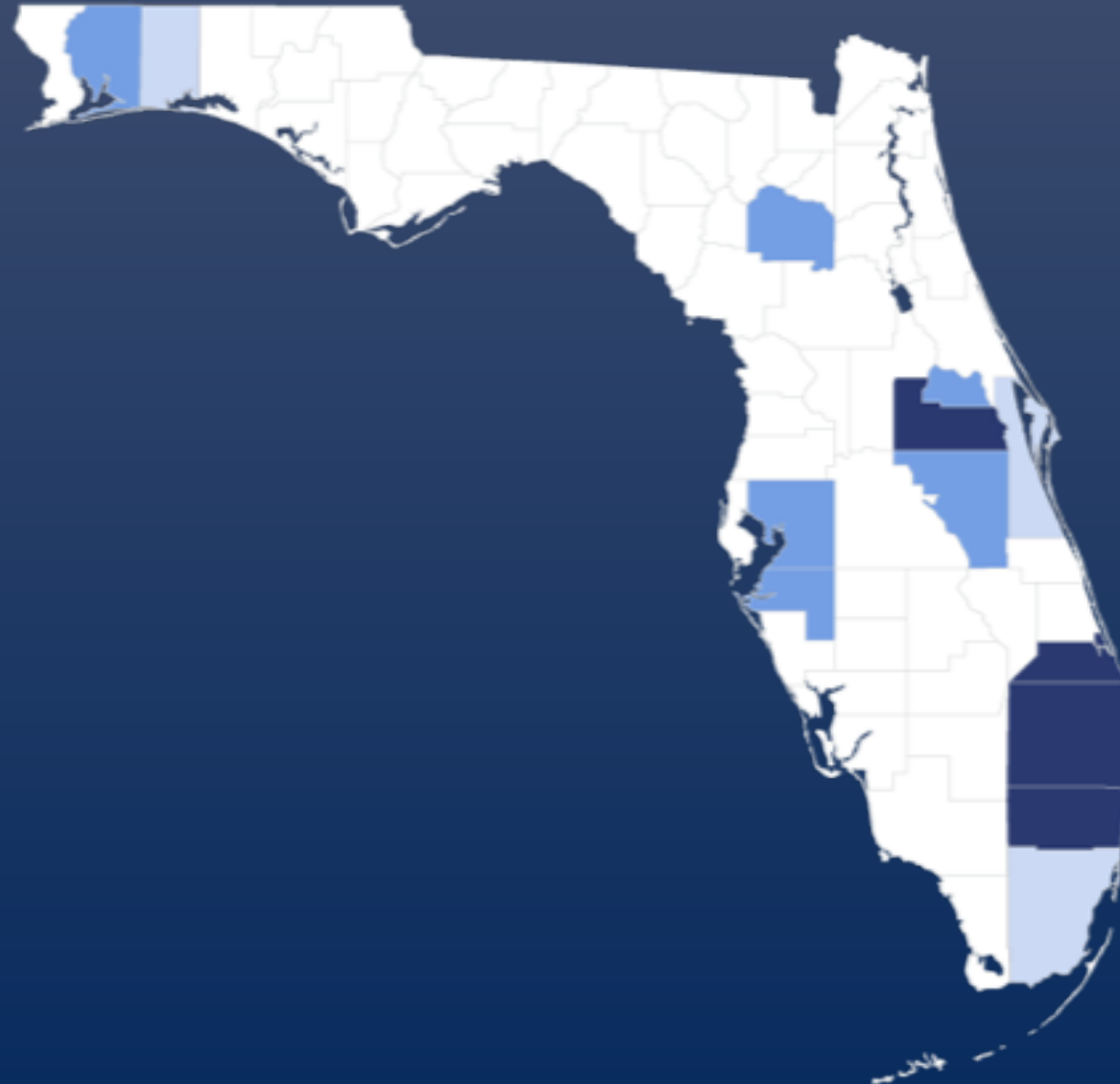
EXPANSION OF LOCAL CIVICS & DEBATE PROGRAMS

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.

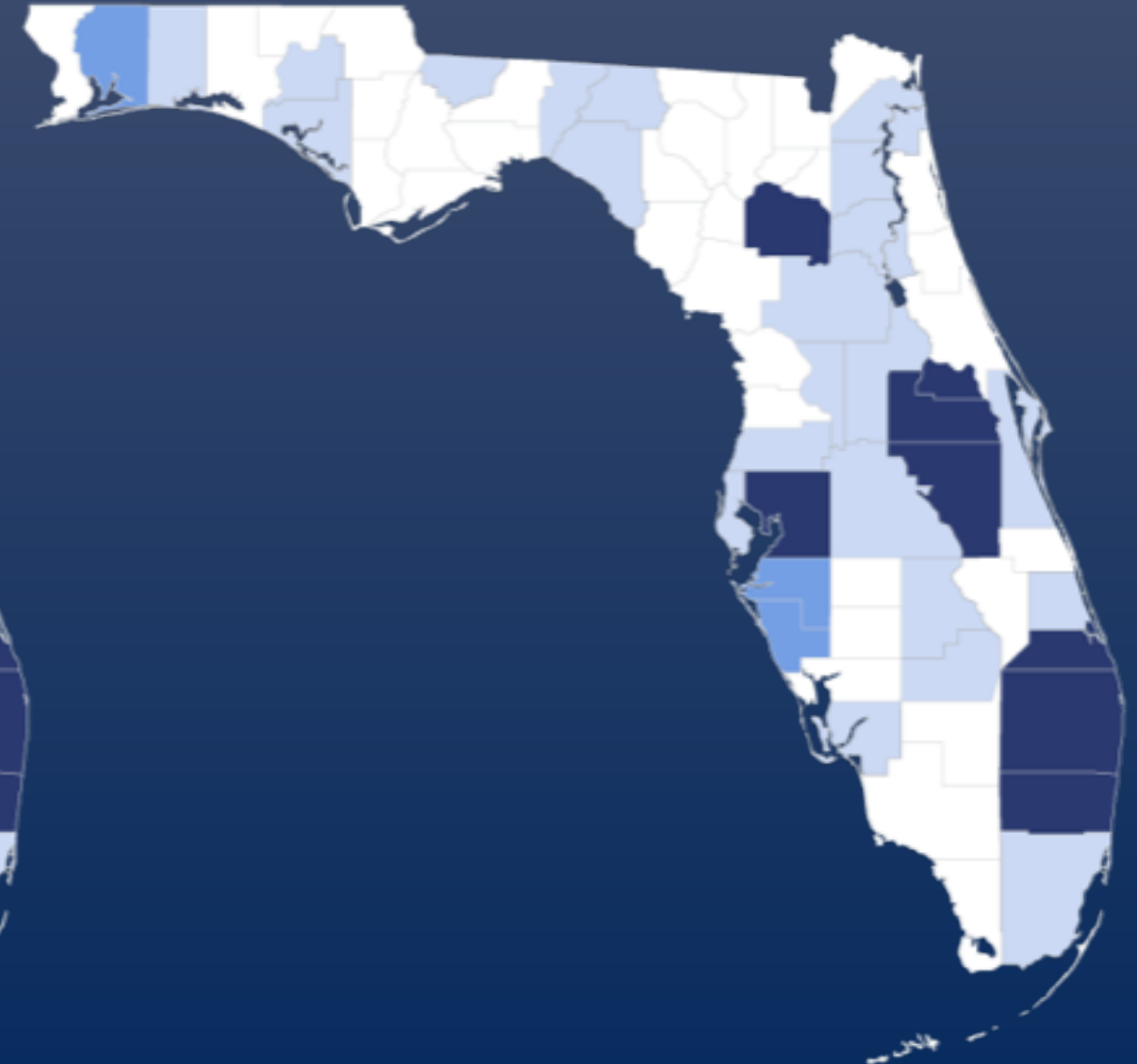
– George Washington



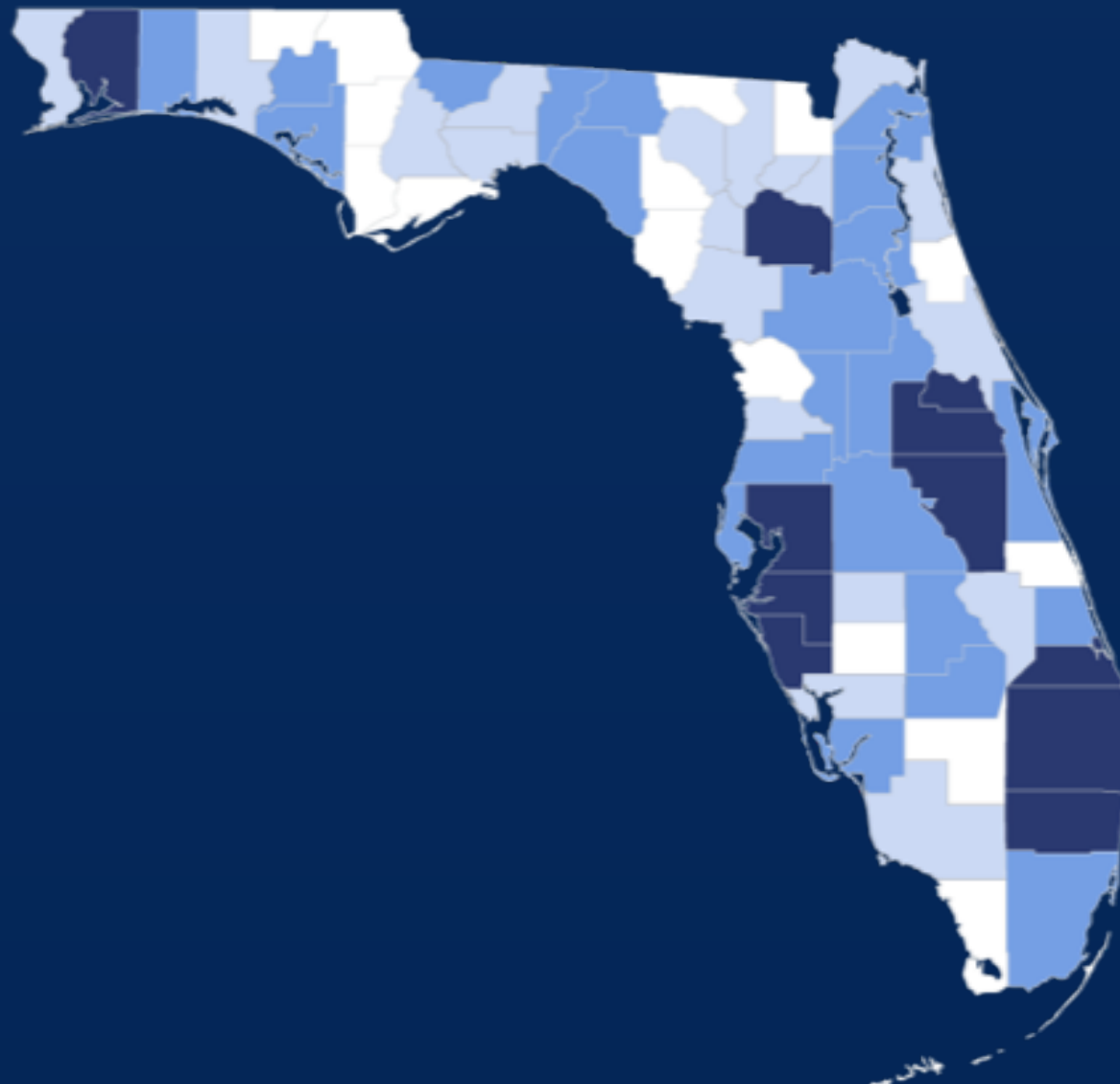
Pre-FCDI



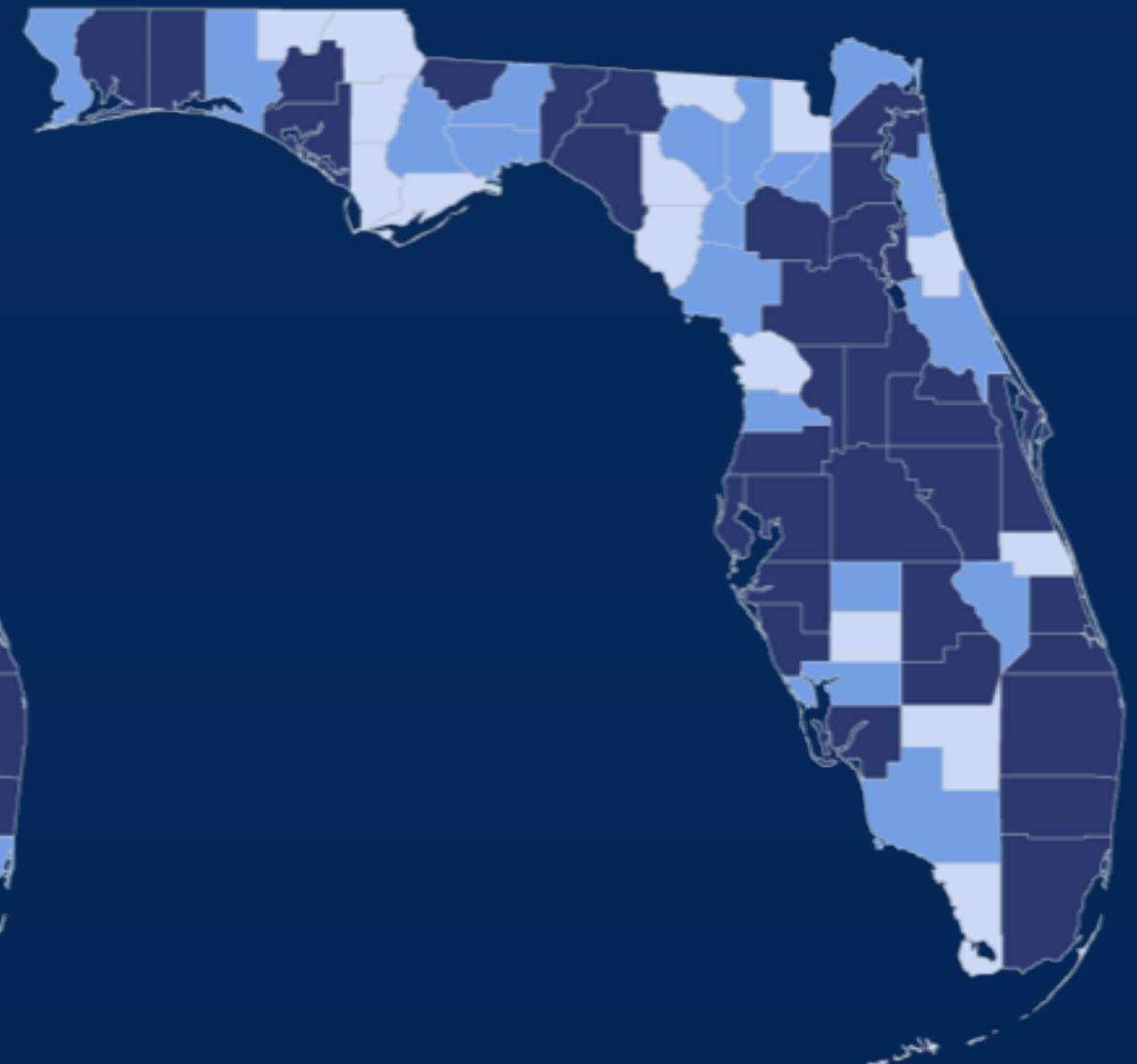
Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3



FLORIDA CIVICS &
DEBATE INITIATIVE
Building GREAT Citizens

FCDI Program Goals – Three Year Projected Impact

#1 Scale the FCDI to reach all 74 Florida school districts

#2 Increase middle school Civics and high school US History end-of-course state passage rates

#3 Provide teacher professional development on civics and debate

#4 Implement the National Civics & Debate Championship

#5 Publish annual Civics and Debate best practices toolkit for all Florida school districts and other partners



IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND DEVELOPING HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS

SIX FCDI REGIONS

South Florida

Gulf Coast

Southeast

Central

Northeast

Panhandle



Ideas / Info

- Civil Arguments are key in speech + debate
- Lincoln Douglas = 1 vs. 1
- Public Forum = 2 vs. 2
- Time ⌚ = Typically 45 min
- Evidence [] is Key → []
- Speech = memorization of unusual speeches
- Original Oratory = personal speeches
- Your ideas matter!
- Every voice is heard 📺 📍

Student Congress

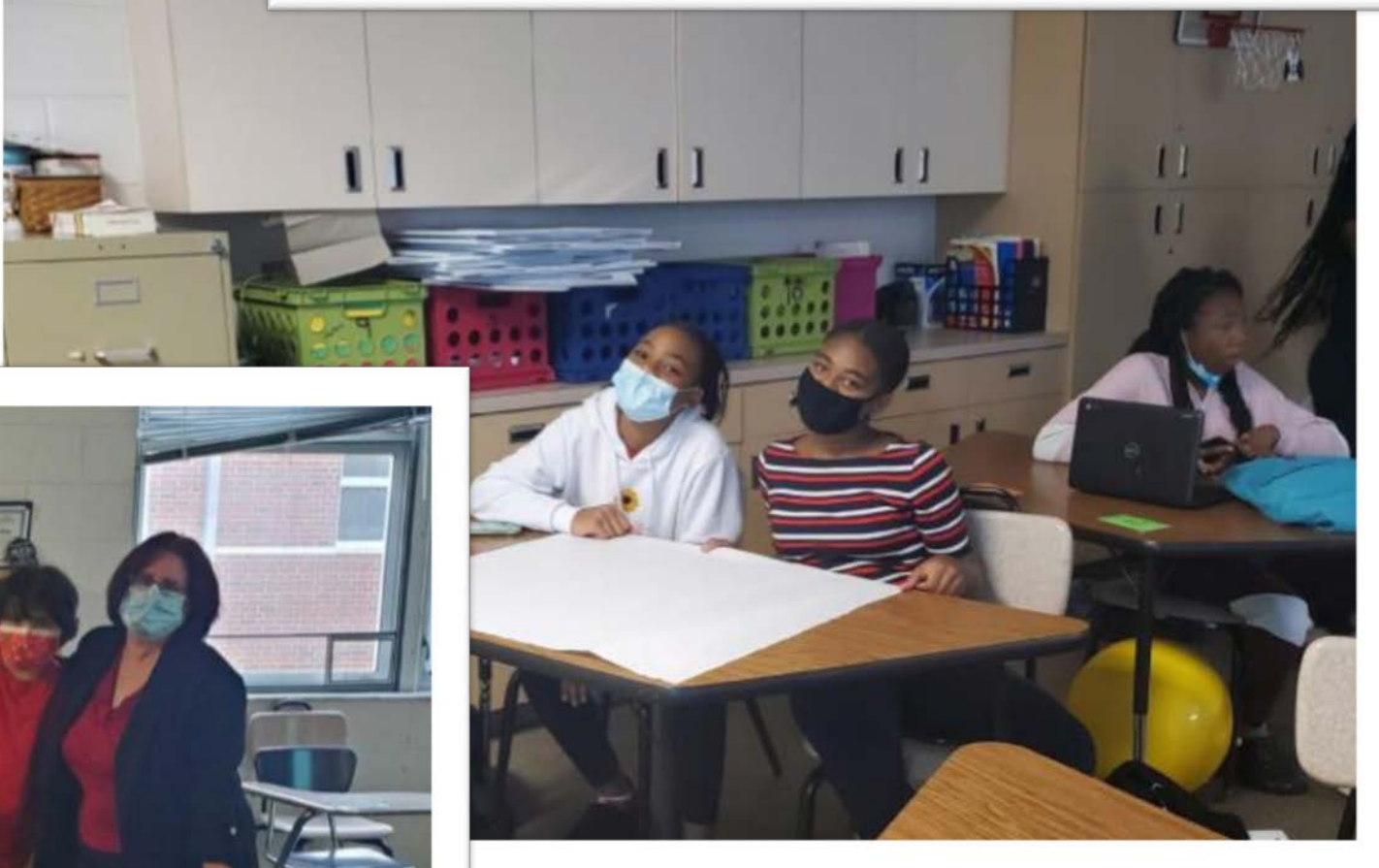
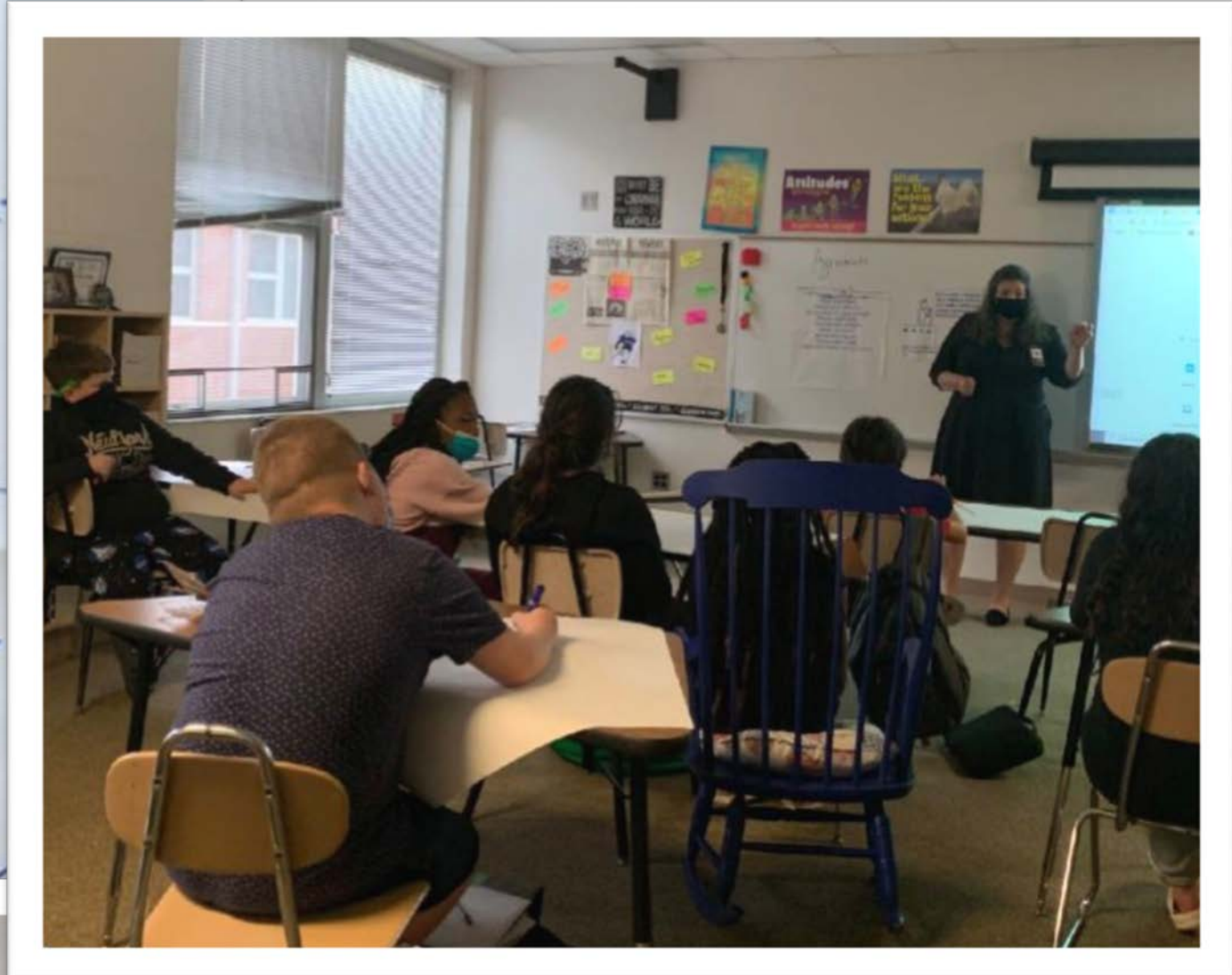
Senate H.O.R.

Write your own legisla

LAW

Come + Join! ★

a duo



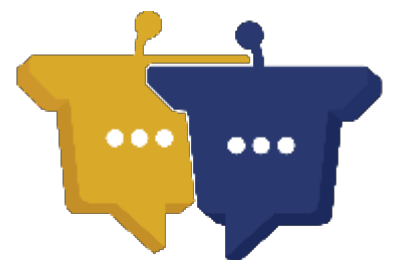
FLORIDA'S NATIONAL CIVICS & DEBATE COMPETITION

DIFFERENCES VS. OTHER NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

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

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

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



“The Florida Civics and Debate Initiative will allow thousands of students across our state to not only learn about the Constitution and the Bills of Rights, but also give them confidence to succeed academically and in life.

I commend students and educators across Florida for making civic literacy a priority. Our state is making great strides to reach our goal to be number one in the nation for civic literacy and education.”

Governor Ron DeSantis



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Building GREAT Citizens

THANK YOU
FOR
SUPPORTING
CIVIC
LITERACY
EDUCATION



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