



Delaware Center for Civics Education
Institute for Public Administration | IPA



2024 CEAS Program Information

Overview: Become part of the *We the People* network of more than 100,000 teachers affiliated with the Center for Civic Education and impacting 30 million students since inception! Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Civics that Empowers All Students (CEAS) program will support civics professional development to upper elementary and middle school teachers across all 50 states and DC.

The focus of the *We the People* CEAS program is implementation of the innovative and research-supported Simulated Congressional Hearing, where students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge the U.S. Constitution and/or citizenship by writing and delivering a short "public testimony" to a small group of adult judges and engaging in a brief question and answer, similar to testifying at a public meeting. The CEAS program in Delaware is especially looking for teachers in grades 4, 7, and 8 who have the opportunity to implement this program as part of their civics and history instruction.

Delaware CEAS teachers will receive an all-expense paid 5-day summer institute at the University of Delaware from Monday, August 5th to Friday, August 9th, a free class set of [We the People books](#), 16 hours of PLC support during the school year, and a stipend for participation. Please complete the [2024 CEAS Application](#) to apply for the program or email Delaware State CEAS Coordinator [Scott Abbott](#) with questions. Learn more about the national CEAS program at www.civiced.org/ceas.

Benefits:

- 52 hours of professional development in a learning community with mentors and other Delaware teachers.
- A 36-hour, in-person summer institute at the University of Delaware in Newark from **Monday, August 5th until Friday, August 9th, 2024** to build your civics knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- An additional 16 hours of professional development support during the 2024-25 school year, including free registration, hotel, and travel costs to attend the 2025 [Middle States Social Studies Conference](#) in Lancaster, PA in late February/early March 2025.
- FREE set of [We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution](#) textbooks to use for implementing the program.
- \$350 stipend for completing the Summer Institute and \$300 additional stipend for implementing the *We the People* program and meeting research requirements during the 2024–2025 school year, including participation in 16 hours of professional learning, completion of a teacher pre-and post-test, student pre-and post-test, and holding a Simulated Congressional Hearing for students.
- Opportunity to collaborate with teachers from across the state and civics/history scholars.

Responsibilities:

- Attend and participate in 36-hour Summer Institute, including any pre-work, and complete Teacher Pre-Survey and brief Pre-Test.
- Give students a brief civics pre-test to measure baseline for civics knowledge and literacy growth.
- Attend 16 hours of school year professional learning, including at the Middle States Social Studies Conference in spring 2025 in Lancaster, PA.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is eligible to participate?



Delaware Center for Civics Education
Institute for Public Administration | IPA



Current full-time Delaware teachers who teach civics or U.S. History in grades 4, 7, or 8 and who expect to teach one of these courses during the 2024-2025 school year. The grant intends to support schools where at least 30% of students meet federal guidelines for higher needs (e.g., Title 1, students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, rural students, etc.). Also, teacher participants must not have attended more than 1 day of We the People training in the past. If you are uncertain of your eligibility, please email Delaware State CEAS Coordinator [Scott Abbott](#) with questions.

Does the CEAS program align with the Delaware social studies standards?

Yes, the CEAS program is being offered in grade 4 U.S. History and Civics, Grade 7 Civics and Economics, and Grade 8 U.S. History because of the alignment to Delaware Civics and History standards in those grades. Engaging in the We the People/CEAS program, including the Simulated Congressional Hearing, is expected to help students to master these standards.

Does the We the People curriculum replace the model lessons or my district curriculum?

No, the CEAS program is meant to be complementary to the Delaware civics and history model lessons and to be used in conjunction with them. By engaging in the CEAS Summer Institute and school year support, teachers will be able to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the civics and history content in grades 4, 7, and 8 and to better understand both how to leverage the model lessons provided in those grade levels as well as extending the curriculum by leveraging additional resources provided by We the People.

What research supports the effectiveness of the We the People/CEAS program?

The Program Effectiveness Panel of the U.S. Department of Education's National Diffusion Network examined the reports of numerous research studies on the We the People program. The panel validated the results of those studies and confirmed the program's powerful educational effects on students' civic knowledge and attitudes. This formal validation recognizes the We the People program's "contributions to excellence in education" Explore the Center for Civic Education's [Research and Evaluation of We the People page](#) for additional information and links to the relevant research. Additionally, the CEAS program will be specifically measuring the changes in teacher and student knowledge of civic knowledge and skills, growth in literacy outcomes, and improvement in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies. Early results from Cohort 1 of the program show positive indications of improvement in all of these areas, with more formal results available after the conclusion of the first cohort year in the summer/fall of 2024.

What curriculum are CEAS teacher participants required to use?

CEAS teacher participants will be expected to continue leveraging Delaware model lessons for civics and history and also have access to textbooks and additional resources from the [We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution](#) books. Teacher participants will be expected to conduct a Simulated Congressional Hearing with at least one class of their students.

I teach 4th grade but we don't have much time for social studies in our schedule. Will I be able to participate?

Yes! Mentor teachers will help you to problem-solve ways to be intentional about maximizing your time given your particular school schedule by using the civics and history model lessons, complementing them with We the People resources, and being creative about how to leverage the time you have available.

What happens if I have questions about how to implement the program during the school year?

While CEAS teacher participants will get significant support during the CEAS Summer Institute (August 5th-9th), they will receive additional support during the 2024-25 school year as well. Teachers will have at least



Delaware Center for Civics Education
Institute for Public Administration | IPA



16 hours of support with their fellow teachers during the school year split between virtual events and at least one in-person event (i.e., the 2025 Middle States Social Studies Conference). Additionally, the Program Director and Mentor Teachers (i.e., current classroom teachers or content specialists) will provide additional support as needed by answering questions, emailing resources, and helping to coordinate the Simulated Congressional Hearings.

Are there risks to engaging in the CEAS program?

You will have the opportunity to build relationships with civics and history teachers across the state, deepen your knowledge and skills, and become part of a nationwide community of We the People alums. Previous research shows significant benefits for both teachers and students who participate in this program.