Educators, Help Us Empower Tomorrow's Leaders!

One student. One big idea.

You know the students who ask thoughtful questions, challenge the status quo, come up with creative solutions, or are always looking for ways to make things better. The National Civics Bee is an opportunity to help those students turn their curiosity and ideas into something bigger.

The Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce invites teachers, principals, school counselors, administrators, and homeschool educators to help spread the word about our 3rd Annual Westmoreland County National Civics Bee!

You don't have to teach civics to make a difference. Whether you work in social studies, English, science, technology, or another subject area, you can help a student discover their potential as an engaged citizen and future community leader.

How can you get involved?

Spread the Word:

Share the competition with students, parents, fellow educators, and school communities. Encourage your school to include the Bee in newsletters, classroom announcements, parent emails, and social media posts to help reach as many eligible students as possible.

Encourage Participation:

Identify students with big ideas, creative thinking skills, or an interest in making a difference. You don't need to be an expert in civics to encourage an entry!

Make It a Classroom Conversation:

Ask students what they would change about their school or community if they had the opportunity. Their answers could be the beginning of a great essay.

Celebrate Student Voices

Encourage students to think critically, speak up, and recognize that their ideas matter. A simple classroom announcement, conversation, or email home could be the encouragement they need to take that first step. Distribute the student application guide & competition information through classroom announcements, school newsletters, learning platforms, or parent communications.

IMPORTANT DATES:
February 2, 2027: Student application deadline
April 19, 2027: Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Regional Competition

Resources

Download the 2027 Educator Toolkit

Looking for ways to bring the National Civics Bee into your classroom? This free toolkit includes everything you need to introduce the competition to your students, including:

- Classroom Activities & Lesson Plans: Flexible options for incorporating the Bee into your curriculum, whether you have one class period or several weeks.
- Writing Workshop Resources: Activities and guidance to help students brainstorm, develop, and strengthen their essay applications.
- Ready-to-Use Templates: Sample emails to parents and school administrators, customizable announcements, and other outreach materials.
- Competition Information: An overview of eligibility, important deadlines, prizes, competition stages, and frequently asked questions.
- Student Support Resources: Tips for helping students complete their applications and prepare for regional competitions if selected as finalists.
- Whether you choose to make the Bee a classroom assignment or simply share the opportunity with interested students, this toolkit provides practical ways to get involved and encourage civic engagement.
- Help your students discover that their ideas matter and that they have the power to make a difference in their communities!

Download the 2027 Essay Application Guide

The official 2027 Student Essay Application Guide walks students through the entire application process, helping them develop their ideas, organize their thoughts, and write compelling responses. Inside the guide, students will find:

- The Four Essay Questions: An overview of each question and what students are being asked to address.
- Writing Tips & Guidelines: Recommendations for developing thoughtful, well-organized responses, including suggested word counts.
- Essay Organizers & Worksheets: Step-by-step activities to help brainstorm community challenges, develop solutions, identify potential partners, and plan an approach.
- Founding Principles & Civic Virtues: Helpful definitions, explanations, and examples to help students connect their ideas to the values that shape our country.
- Judging Criteria: An explanation of how essays are evaluated and what judges look for in strong responses.
- Application Instructions: Important submission details, including how to complete the online application.
- Students will respond to four short-answer questions, each generally targeting 150–200 words. No formal citations are required, but students should include enough information to identify the sources supporting their ideas.

Download the 2027 Student Flyer

Reach out with questions, ideas, or feedback.

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Learn more here