



Education Steering Committee: Subcommittees

The 250th Commemoration provides timely opportunity to educate, engage, and inspire Virginians around our history and foundational values and beliefs that continue to be relevant to our lives. Program details and scheduling will be available on the [VA250 site](#). Over the next two years, the VA250 Education Steering Committee will work with partners throughout the Commonwealth to accomplish the following goals:

Goals	Making History Come Alive!		Spark a Civic Renaissance		Celebrate Democracy	
Description	Tap into the rich resource that are Virginia's museums, cultural organizations, colleges and universities to provide content, resources, and materials for our students, teachers, and communities across the Commonwealth.		Provide programming to learn and share civic principles, appreciate our diversity and connect communities to inspire civil discourse across the Commonwealth.		Celebrate the heart of the Declaration of Independence- <i>We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness-</i> through meaning and purpose. The programming seeks to actualize those words.	
Subcommittee Leader	Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt		Hilary Crow		Stefanie Georgakis Abbott	
Subcommittee Membership	Amy Tillerson-Brown Andrew Richardson Butch Smiley Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt Celeste Fetta Chief Steve Adkins Christy Coleman Cliff Edwards Hank Moseley	Jamie Bosket Jeffrey Allison Jennifer Whitlow Joe Keiper Michael Plumb Paige Hildebrand Rev. Cozy Bailey Richard Conti Rose Basom Sam Florer Sarah Quesenberry	Barry DuVal Bethany Spitzer Beverly Sanford Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill Jennifer Lopez Jodi Fisler	Kerry Canaday Lucretia Anderson Nick Down Paula Cook Sandra Wheeler Scott Stroh	Alyson Ramsey Deecy Gray Douglas Ginsburg Heather Crislip Lee Ann Chisenhall Liz Briechle Mary Kate Cary	Michael Poliakoff Michael Regnier Mike Wasserman Rajiv Vinnakota Stefanie Georgakis Abbott
Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources and Materials for Virginia Educators Building Teacher Confidence National History Day Passport and Historical sites visitation Sail 250 Mobile Museum Special exhibitions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Civics Bee National Debate Tournament Celebrate Civics Week Education around Civil Discourse and Civic Engagement (IHEs) Oratory for Students Speech and Debate Competitions Reading Revolution 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of Independence and toolkit Traveling Conversations on the Declaration of Independence Student Expression of Freedom Contest Naturalization Ceremonies and toolkit Democracy 360 Focus on Common Cause to All 	



Education Programming Descriptions

1. **Building Teacher Confidence** - Create and implement professional learning sessions to build the confidence to teach all of our history.
2. **Celebrate Civics Week** - Celebrate (March 2025 and 2026) with activities, proclamations and events in schools and across campuses. iCivics offers a toolkit to support educational institutions with the celebration.
3. **Citizenship Indicator** – Incorporate into the new K -12 performance and support framework. (Virginia Board of Education)
4. **Declaration of Independence and toolkit** – Resources and materials for activities and lessons focused on the Declaration of Independence that can also be used at local community events. Toolkit will be digital to provide teachers with easier access and usability.
5. **Focus on Common Cause to All** - Civics and Civil Discourse Topics and work to provide workshops and speakers that promote Civics Renaissance as part of the VA250th commemorations.
6. **Higher Education Institutions: *Education around Civil Discourse and Civic Engagement*** – collaborate with IHEs to put in place action plans for Free Speech, Intellectual Diversity, Civil Discourse and Civic Engagement to prepare citizens for a Pluralistic Democracy. Promote courses in civics, volunteerism, and civic engagement.
7. **Mobile Museum** –A hands-on, interactive, and immersive “museum on wheels,” the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience titled “Out of Many, One” will be housed in a quad-expandable tractor trailer that will travel throughout Virginia and beyond, starting in Fall 2024. Traveling museum will feature stories, events, and individuals from the Revolutionary period. By request, the mobile museum will travel across the Commonwealth to share the Virginia story (America’s history).
8. **National Civics Bee** - National Civics Bee® events are hosted in partnership with local and state chambers of commerce in each state. Students respond to questions featuring basic civic knowledge increasing in difficulty with each level of the competition.
9. **National Debate Tournament** – Tournaments offered through the VHSL and other organizations. Revolutionary Rhetoric: June 2026 national tournament will be held in Virginia.
10. **National History Day** –The state affiliate of National History Day, a project-based learning program for students grades 4-12. This interdisciplinary research project helps students develop historical thinking and literacy skills while making the study of history engaging, and relevant!
11. **Naturalization Ceremonies Toolkit** - Coordinate Naturalization Ceremonies in every community on July 4, 2026, and provide guides for hosting educational activities and celebrations - including essay and oratory contest winners speaking at the naturalization events, and hosting citizenship test Family Feud, providing educational orientation for all ages to the naturalization ceremony.
12. **Passport and Historical sites visitation** – A passport booklet using the VA250 logo and pages for students to collect a stamp, and/or sticker from participating museums and historical locations focused on the Revolutionary Era. Passport booklets can be offered as a hardcopy or digital.
13. **Reading Revolution** - October 14 – 18, 2024 leading up to Yorktown Victory Day will be designated for the Reading Revolution Week- connecting museums, public libraries, and communities to

elementary school students by encouraging reading stories about the people, places, and events during the Revolutionary era, freedom and democracy, the Constitution, or civic principles that founded this great nation.

14. **Resources and Materials for Virginia Educators** - Enrich the Virginia History and Civics Standards through linkages to SOL Instructional Guides. Virginia museum and historical institutions will help the Standards come alive through videos, pictures, tours, lessons, and artifacts. Begin with the Standards pertaining to the events of the country's founding and Revolutionary War and civics topics. Expand to all history.
15. **Sail 250** - Educational programming and opportunities around the arrival of the tall ships to the Hampton Roads area.
16. **Special exhibitions** - Individual museums and historical institutions develop exhibits to feature some aspect of the Revolutionary period, people, and/or events.
17. **Speech and Debate Competitions for Students** – Increase the participation of middle school students in speech and debate; connect high school coaches with interested middle schools; and Winners of the 2023 contest (Peter Lee Hamilton) provided the opportunity to present his speech as part of the July 4, 2024, Capitol Square celebration. University students were provided opportunities to work with speechwriters to hone their craft and compete on their campuses and then on the state stage. Winners at the July 4th celebration in 2025 and 2026
18. **Student Expression of Freedom Contest** - Students from grades 3 – 12 to respond to the prompt: What does Freedom mean? Students have the opportunity to choose their mode and platform of communication of their thoughts and ideas about freedom.
19. **Traveling Conversations on the Declaration of Independence** – List of topics and forums for community discussions about the principles and ideas laid down in the Declaration of Independence and its relevancy to present day society.
20. **VDOE Website** – Link the VDOE website to the VA250 site that will contain the tools, educational resources, materials, curriculum that can be used by schools, families, community organizations to use to commemorate the 250th. Partners may also connect with the instructional technology department to create a HUB on the GoOpenVA site. (This will be live soon)



Committee Work Template

1.	Goal /Programming	
2.	Responsible Lead	
3.	Anticipated Start Date of Programming	
4.	Action Steps and Timeline: What is the timeline for this program?	
5.	Action Steps and Timeline: What action steps will be taken within the next 30 days to move this program forward?	
6.	Communication Plan: How will you communicate with stakeholders?	
7.	Communication Plan: What do you need to communicate with stakeholders?	
8.	Necessary support:	
9.	Next steps: What are your next steps to ensure this program meeting its goals and timelines?	
10.	Additional ideas: Does your team have any suggestions regarding additional or supplementary programming to support the major goal?	
11.	Intersectionality: Are there any areas where your program intersects or supports another program?	
12.	Next meeting date for the group: When is your next meeting to ensure the programming stays on target?	
13.	Contributing Members:	