INTRODUCTION

Civics education is an essential part of any democracy and equips students with the knowledge and tools to responsibly engage as productive citizens within their communities. Districts and schools can play a meaningful role in the work to support students’ foundational knowledge and preparedness for civic life – all key components of 21st century skills.

Recognizing the importance of civics values and education, Governor Bill Lee announced the “Governor’s Civics Seal” during his first State of the State address on March 4, 2019. Additionally, the Tennessee General Assembly passed HB0944/SBO800, which amended T.C.A. 49-6-1028 and officially established the Governor’s Civics Seal.

For a Tennessee school to earn the Governor’s Civics Seal, they must meet the following criteria:

- Incorporate civic learning across a broad range of grades and academic subjects that builds upon Tennessee academic standards
- Provide instruction regarding our nation’s democratic principles and practices, the significant events and individuals responsible for the creation of our foundational documents, and the formation of the governments of the United States and the state of Tennessee using the federal and state foundational documents in accordance with S 49-6-1028
- Provide professional development opportunities or student resources that support civics education
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in real-world learning activities
- Fully implement a high-quality, project-based assessment in accordance with S 49-6-1028(e)
- Receive recognition as a civics all-star school in accordance with S 49-6-408, when applicable

Districts and schools are highlighted as Governor’s Civics Seal recipients by:

- Each school earning the Seal is recognized on the State Report Card as a Tennessee Excellence in Civics Education School
- Each district with at least 80% of their schools having earned the seal is a Tennessee Excellence in Civics Education District
For the 2020-21 school year, the following schools and districts will earn the Tennessee Excellence in Civics Education School designation and the Governor’s Civics Seal.

53 SCHOOLS

- Adamsville Elementary
- Adamsville High
- Alcoa High
- Arlington High
- Bailey Station Elementary
- Battle Academy
- Bethel Springs Elementary
- Boones Creek Elementary
- Central High
- Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts
- Collierville Elementary
- Collierville High
- Collierville Middle
- Crosswind Elementary
- Daniel Boone High
- David Crockett High
- Fall Branch Elementary
- Grandview Elementary
- Gray Elementary
- Greeneville High
- Haywood High
- Hixson Middle
- Ivy Academy
- Jonesborough Elementary
- Jonesborough Middle
- Lamar Elementary
- McConnell Elementary
- McEwen High
- Obion County Central High
- Ooltewah Middle
- Peabody High
- Ramer Elementary
- Red Bank High
- Ridgeview Elementary
- Sale Creek Middle High
- Schilling Farms Elementary
- Selmer Elementary
- Selmer Middle
- Sequoyah High
- Signal Mountain Middle High
- Soddy Elementary
- South Central Elementary
- South Fulton High
- Spring Creek Elementary
- Sulphur Springs Elementary
- Sycamore Elementary
- Tara Oaks Elementary
- Thrasher Elementary
- Trousdale County High
- Tyner Middle
- University School
- West Collierville Middle
- West View Elementary

3 DISTRICTS

- Collierville City Schools
- McNairy County Schools
- Washington County Schools

TENNESSEE INVESTED IN CIVICS EDUCATION
Grants and Award Opportunities for Districts and Schools

OCTOBER 2019
With the launch of the program, Governor Lee announced mini-grants would be awarded to support public schools and districts in implementing high-quality civics education programs that result in readiness for college, career, and civic life.

JANUARY 2020
Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee Department of Education awarded 21 Governor’s Civics Seal mini-grants totaling $220,000 to be used in the 2020-21 school year.

MARCH 2021
59 schools and districts were awarded Governor’s Civics Seal grant funding. The 59 grant applicants, which included 42 schools and 17 districts, were awarded funding totaling $500,000 through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER).

Funding from each of these rounds of grants was intended to:

1. Promote life-long civic engagement by providing access to high-quality, standards-based civics resources;
2. Establish civics programs in rural and urban schools and districts;
3. Support highly effective educators through civics-based professional development; and
4. Prepare schools and districts to earn the Governor’s Civics Seal.

This second round of funding tripled the number of grants awarded in the 2019-20 school year, with grantees representing 26 counties and 32 school districts or charter management organizations across Tennessee.

Learn more about the Governor’s Civics Seal or read previous announcements by visiting [www.tn.gov/education/instruction/governor-s-civics-seal.html](http://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/governor-s-civics-seal.html).

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