

2004 Legislators Back to School Week
Joint Message from President Don Hines and Speaker Joe Salter

As public servants, one of our key responsibilities is civic education, to build support for our American democratic institutions. The National Conference of State Legislatures created the program entitled America's Legislators Back to School as a national, bipartisan civic education mission for state lawmakers, giving them an opportunity to return to classrooms all across our country to share the ideals of representative democracy.

Louisiana legislators have personally committed themselves to this program from the start. Last year we met with over 30,000 students in 250 schools throughout Louisiana. We have had the privilege of sharing our experiences as lawmakers, debating ideas with young people, and helping them to understand the legislative process; and it has been an enriching experience on all sides.

The Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives will once again join in this program, now in its fifth year. During America's Legislators Back to School Week, September 20-24, we'll be going to schools in our districts to share a living civics lesson with young citizens, hear from them and their teachers, and work together to build leadership for tomorrow.