

SCHOOL VISIT

OCTOBER 17, 2003

- I. BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH
 - A. NCSL
 - B. ALL THIS MONTH APPROXIMATELY 5000 LEGISLATORS
AND SENATORS DOING THE EXACT SAME THING
- II. PLAN TODAY—EXPLAIN THE PROCESS AND THEN DO
EXERCISE APPLYING THE SAME PROCES
- III. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
 - A. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STATE AND FED
 1. SIZE
 2. CHAMBERS
 - a. TERMS OF OFFICE
 - b. HOW ELECTED AND WHERE FORM
 - c. PARTIES
 - B. INTRO OF BILL (IDEA)
 - C. REFERRED TO COMMITTEE
 1. POWER OF CHAIRMAN

2. HEARINGS/MEETINGS

3. VOTE OUT OR NOT

D. APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

E. FLOOR SCHEDULE FOR VOTE

1. IMPORTANCE OF MAJORITY PARTY

2. SCHEDULE FOR FLOOR ACTION OR NOT

D. FEDERAL (RULE COMMITTEE)

E. DEBATE

1. AMENDMENT PROCESS

2. DEBATE

a. HOW LONG CAN SPEAK

b. HOW MANY TIMES CAN SPEAK

F. SPEAKER'S ROLE

1. MANAGE THE FLOOR DEBATE

2. RULE WITH PARLIAMENTARIAN ON QUESTIONS OF

PROCEDURE

G. CALL FOR THE VOTE

1. MOVE THE QUESTION (CUT-OFF DEBATE)

2. PRIME SPONSOR GETS TO SPEAK LAST

3. SPEAKER CALLS FOR VOTE - "ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION THE YEA AND NAYS WILL NOW BE TAKEN, THE MEMBERS WILL PROCEED TO VOTE"

4. HOW LONG THE VOTE REMAINS OPEN

5. WHIP ACTION

F. IF PASSED STARTS OVER IN SENATE

1. SAME PROCESS

2. IF PASS AND DIFFERENT HOUSE MUST CONCUR IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

3. IF NOT MUST GO BACK TO GO TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

4. BACK TO HOUSE AND SENATE FOR CONFERENCE REPORT

5. GOV/ SIGN OR VETO

IV. EXERCISE

A. SHOULD SCHOOLS IN PA BE REQUIRED TO GO BE SCHEDULED YEAR-AROUND?

B. DIVIDE CLASS IN TWO GROUPS -FOR AND AGAINST

C. DEBATE AND USING HOUSE RULES ON THE FLOOR (ALREADY PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE)

AMY - Please Call
me about this -
Thanks,
Denise

TALKING POINTS
BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
September 2003

Your Ideas Count—Talking with Kids About Representative Democracy in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Talking with kids about representative democracy in the Commonwealth and how the legislature works is a great opportunity for Pennsylvania lawmakers.

MESSAGE: YOUR IDEAS COUNT

- Legislators (we) care about constituents' needs and problems and what they think about issues.
- We are committed to public service.
- We deal with lots of competing issues, but every viewpoint is heard.
- People don't agree on most issues, so it's hard to find solutions to public problems.
- Negotiations and compromise are necessary to solve public problems in Pennsylvania.
- The legislative process is sometimes slow and contentious because of competing interests and lack of agreement.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TALKING WITH KIDS

- Send teachers your resume and a description of the activities you have planned for the class in advance of the visit.
- Deal with students in an informal, personal manner; be straightforward and real.
- Talk about issues that kids care about (e.g. school violence, driving age, video game restrictions, competency testing to graduate in Pennsylvania, etc).
- Personalize the lesson.

SUGGESTED IDEAS

- Legislative Simulation (middle school/high school)—Conduct a simulated committee hearing on a policy issue allowing the students to testify, debate and vote.
- Solving a class problem (all grade levels)—Present a problem to the class (for example, a good destination for a class outing) and have them debate the possibilities and negotiate an agreement.
- A Day in the Life of a Pennsylvania Legislator (all grade levels)—Select a page from a legislative day on your calendar to illustrate such things as dealing with constituent problems, listening to diverse points of view, negotiating, compromising, decision-making and balancing your personal and professional life with legislative life.
- The Perfect Pizza (elementary school)—or perfect school lunch, etc. Ask the students to decide as a class what makes a perfect pizza. When they are unable to agree, lead them through a process of deciding pepperoni or no pepperoni, lots of cheese or little cheese, thick or thin, etc.

JOHN M. PERZEL
THE SPEAKER



139 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
(717) 787-2016

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

JUN 04 2003

DATE: June 3, 2003

SUBJECT: 2003 America's Legislators Back to School Month

TO: All House Members

FROM: John M. Perzel
The Speaker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JMP', written over the printed name 'John M. Perzel'.

It is once again time to begin preparing for America's Legislators Back to School event. In the past, the third week in September was designated "Back to School Week" during which State Legislators nationwide would visit with school students to promote representative democracy. This year, however, we have named the entire month of September "Back to School Month." This gives you plenty of time to take part in this important program designed by the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL).

We, along with NCSL, are ready to help you plan a successful interaction with your students. Various materials, such as brochures, suggested activities and a video called, "Your Ideas Count: Questions and Answers" will be available.

If you plan to participate, please complete the attached form and return it to Kathi Clouser in my office, so we can begin to assist you in your preparation. We look forward to hearing from you soon and encourage you to visit at least one school during September.

jmp:tj
Attachment