



2026 Alabama History Institutes: Grades 6-12

Securing the Blessings of Liberty: A Roadmap for Teachers

American Village, Montevallo

June 16-18, 2026

Simone Thomas, Jefferson County Schools

Shineka Smith, Macon County Schools

What does it mean to be a citizen, and how has that meaning changed over time?

This professional development workshop supports educators of grades 6–12 as they explore Alabama’s new Social Studies Course of Study through the lens of American civics. Held in partnership with the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, the three-day session will examine historical developments that expanded civic participation to incorporate non-landowners, Black Alabamians, and women into the state’s electorate.

As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, you will consider Alabama’s place in an expanding nation and explore how definitions of civic participation have shifted over time. You will learn inquiry-based instructional strategies to help students examine civic responsibility, participation, and decision-making. Through historical case studies, primary sources, and guided discussion, you will explore how these moments illuminate changes in the nation’s political landscape and shape civic life today.

You will leave with strategies and resources aligned to the 2024 Social Studies Course of Study Standards that can be applied directly in your classroom and support students’ understanding of their role in civic life. Please bring a personal, operable device, such as a laptop or Chromebook, as you will be required to use it for full participation.



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY