

# Introduction

The success of government is dependent upon citizens who practice responsible citizenship. As educators, we know how difficult it can be to teach citizenship. We hope this curriculum will foster good citizenship through the knowledge of law. *Play by the Rules* can be the vehicle for many meaningful lessons on Alabama law as it relates to our youth. Students will learn about the legal system in a fun and interactive method.



We would like to introduce you to “Bama Jack,” Alabama’s spokesbird as well as the spokesbird for the national *Play by the Rules* program. Bama Jack will lead students through a variety of topics in *Play by the Rules*. He is a young bird living in a world where not all birds obey the law. Bama Jack wants to teach his peers about the law and how they can be responsible citizens. You will find him throughout the text in cartoons depicting the various legal issues raised by his questions. Notice how the artwork helps teach the law.

## How Do I Use *Play by the Rules* in the Classroom?

There are two suggested pacing schedules for teaching *Play by the Rules*. A 15-day (three week) pacing schedule is recommended. However, if time does not permit, we also have provided a 10-day (two week) alternative. The Teacher’s Guide will give you step-by-step lesson plans and teaching tips. Pacing schedules are provided on the following pages.

## What About Assessment?

**Summative:** A Pretest/Posttest is designed to assess students’ knowledge of the law learned in the *Play by the Rules* program. The test is written in a standardized test format. Upon completion of the Posttest, student achievement certificates are distributed. It is not recommended to use the Pretest as a grade; however, it is suggested that you use the Posttest as a grade.

**Formative:** “The Scoreboard” is a daily assignment comprised of reading reflection, Batter-Up Questions and handouts that can be used as alternative assessments for grades. See “Assessment” for further instructions.

## **How Do I Order Books?**

There are two ways to order student books and Teacher's Guides. You may call the Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education at **1.800.888.7301** or visit our Web site at **www.pbronline.org** for an order form.

## **How Do I Get Started?**

It's easy! The Teacher Guide lays out all of the steps and lesson plans needed to teach *Play by the Rules* successfully. Remember to notify parents/guardians of the students' upcoming study of *Play by the Rules* with the provided "Letter to Parents/Guardians." Then, follow the provided lesson plans. Most of all ... have fun!

## **What Are Extra Innings?**

Extra Innings are activities designed to provide additional lessons to refresh the students' knowledge of the law. There is at least one extra-inning activity for each chapter. It is suggested that after following the initial pacing schedule, you should continue to teach *Play by the Rules* throughout the year whenever possible.

## **Is There a Teacher Response Form?**

Yes. Your response is greatly appreciated in our effort to revise the curriculum to better serve our youth. Review the Teacher Response Form found in the Appendix. Please complete the form and return it, along with the copies of the student and parent response forms, to ACLCE at the end of your study. You may fax the form to ACLCE at **205.726.2459** or mail it to the following address: **Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education, Cumberland School of Law, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229**. You may also complete the form online at [www.pbronline.org](http://www.pbronline.org).

## **What About the Parent and Student Response Forms?**

Parent and student response forms can also be found in the Appendix. Please ask parents and students to complete these forms and return them to you. These response forms should also be faxed or mailed to ACLCE at the above address.

### **NOTE TO READERS**

#### **Page References:**

There are two different books referenced by page numbers in the Teacher's Guide: the *Play by the Rules* student book and the Teacher's Guide. Unless otherwise noted, all page references are to the student book. Page references to the Teacher's Guide will be preceded by "TG."

#### **Legal Advice:**

The law is constantly changing and may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Therefore, someone confronted with a legal problem should not use this text as a substitute for legal advice from an attorney.

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