

Justice Teaching gets high marks in South Florida

The Justice Teaching movement — designed to provide interactive constitutional education to all Florida school children — has picked up a few more fans in South Florida.

Alberto Carvalho, superintendent of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, recently wrote to Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis, who initiated the project when he was chief justice, to let him know the district is committed to civics education.



“An understanding of the structure and function of the judicial system is critical to this mission,” Carvalho said. “Ultimately, the Justice Teaching program and Miami-Dade Public Schools share a similar goal — to prepare students to be knowledgeable, responsible citizens whose words and actions at school, home, and in the community reflect a commitment to the fundamental values and principles of the American constitutional democracy.”

A bit further south, 16th Circuit Judge David Audlin and Ed Scales, a member of the Board of Governors, have been making monthly Justice Teaching visits to Key West High School.

“We are having a wonderful time with the program,” Judge Audlin said, noting every senior at Key West High has been exposed to the program.

Audlin said the two are planning another event for May, most likely to be a demonstration or mock trial/hearing at the Monroe County Courthouse for a large group of seniors.

In an effort to jump-start Justice Teaching in 2009 for schools which may not be familiar with the program, Justice Lewis sent a personal letter to each school principal letting him or her know the name of the Justice Teaching volunteer assigned to that school.

Justice Teaching now boasts more than 3,500 volunteers in over 3,000 sites representing nearly 99 percent of Florida schools.

Volunteers are always needed to partner with local schools. Trainings are held throughout the year. For more information, visit www.justiceteaching.org.