

# **Model Manatee County Government Civics Education Program**

## **Program Mission, Purpose, and Scope**

### **Mission**

To cultivate civic understanding, engagement, and leadership among Manatee County youth through experiential learning and direct interaction with local government.

### **Purpose**

- Increase students' understanding of Manatee County's governmental functions.
- Encourage civic responsibility and participation.
- Provide hands-on experience with public processes, including meetings, workshops, and decision-making.
- Foster the next generation of community leaders.

### **Scope**

The Model Manatee County Government Civics Education Program (Model Manatee) is an annual, multi-session educational experience for Manatee County students who have completed 10th grade and are enrolled full-time in public, private, or home education programs. Participants will attend county meetings, engage with County Commissioners and staff, and complete a culminating mock commission session.

## **Eligibility Criteria & Selection Procedures**

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Completion of 10th grade by the start of the Program.
- Full-time enrollment in a public school, private school, or home education program in Manatee County.
- Commitment to attend all scheduled program sessions.
- Parental/guardian consent (for minors).
- Submission of a complete application form and additional application materials.
- Able to attend first and last meeting, with a maximum of 2 excused absences for the remaining days.

### **Selection Process**

- Applications will be reviewed by staff designated by the County Administrator.
- Selection will consider:
  - Completeness and quality of application
  - Demonstrated interest in civic engagement or leadership
  - Diversity of schools and geographic representation within the county
- A target cohort size (to be determined by staff) will be filled; additional applicants may be placed on a waitlist.