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Top Stories

First lady, education secretary lead students in town hall talk

By **KELLY FENNESSY**
Daily News Staff Writer

Area students had an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns regarding their education at a special town hall meeting.

More than 1,000 high-schoolers gathered at Carnegie Library of Homestead in Munhall Monday to discuss civics and politics with first lady Judge Marjorie Rendell and state Secretary of Education Gerald Zahorchak.

The forum allowed participants to respond to questions posed by Rendell and ask their own questions, discussing topics such as academic preparation for active participation in democracy and changes needed to help students become more involved in the process.

"Our goal is to motivate these students to learn more about their government and elected officials and get involved in their communities," Rendell said. "We know that if they become active and engaged citizens now, they will carry those ideals and traditions into adulthood and create the next generation of voters, leaders and public servants."

Clairton, Elizabeth Forward, McKeesport Area, South Allegheny, Steel Valley, Thomas Jefferson and West Mifflin Area high schools were among the more than 30 schools represented at the meeting, hosted by The Consortium for Public Education and Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

The first lady encouraged students to learn their civic rights and responsibilities in addition to the traditional reading, writing and arithmetic taught in schools.

"Citizens are made, not born," Rendell said. "Good government requires good citizenship and responsibility. The opportunity to change the world for the better is often right before our eyes."

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Stewartsville Freedom Walk helps keep alive significance of Sept.

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Pennsylvania's first lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell and Secretary of Education Gerald L. Zahorchak participated in a town hall forum Monday at Carnegie Library of Homestead. The event was hosted by The Consortium for Public Education and Allegheny Intermediate Unit. (Kelly Fennessy)



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