



**Eastern
State**

2026-2027 School Group Workshops

School Group Workshops are led by our engaging educators and include a 15-minute guide-led tour, followed by a 45-minute, hands-on, discussion-based activity. Your group will also receive a self-guided exploration handout, customized to the theme of your workshop.

Group Size

up to 54

Availability

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Duration

15-minute guide-led tour
plus 45-minute workshop

Grade Level

Recommended for middle
and high school students

Pricing

\$17 adults, \$16 seniors,
\$14 students

One complimentary pass per 15 paying visitors.
Flat rate of \$225 for groups of 14 or less.

Contact Us!

Visit EasternState.org/groups or
email groupsales@easternstate.org



Fourth Amendment: From Al Capone to Stop-and-Frisk

Overview: Students trace the evolution of Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure, from Prohibition-era cases involving Al Capone to modern-day stop-and-frisk policies.

Activity: Students explore Al Capone's 1929 Philadelphia arrest through the lenses of historical legal precedent and modern constitutional law to evaluate how police power intersects with the Fourth Amendment. By comparing past law enforcement tactics to contemporary search-and-seizure practices, they examine the ever-shifting balance between individual rights and public safety over time.

Academic Standards: 5.1.9.E, 5.3.9.G (Pennsylvania)

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze the text of the Fourth Amendment and break down its key legal terms (probable cause, reasonable suspicion, warrant, search, seizure).
- Trace how Prohibition-era crime expanded federal law enforcement powers and led to foundational Supreme Court decisions.
- Compare historical searches with modern street-level policing (stop-and-frisk) and privacy.
- Apply constitutional precedent to real-world scenarios through an interactive activity.

Crime & Punishment: The History of Incarceration in America

Overview: Students explore how incarceration has evolved in the United States, examining the historical, social, and political forces that shaped the modern criminal justice system.

Activity: Students examine primary source packets to investigate how American incarceration evolved across four distinct eras, from 19th-century solitary penance to modern mass incarceration. They then synthesize their findings into short presentations that explore how changing social, economic, and political pressures shaped the nation's justice system over time.

Academic Standards: 5.1.9.B, 5.1.9.J, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.9.C, 5.2.9.F, 5.2.9.G (Pennsylvania)

Learning Objectives:

- Connect Eastern State Penitentiary to the wider 19th-century Antebellum Social Reform movement (Second Great Awakening, asylum/penal reform).
- Compare the Pennsylvania System (solitary) with the Auburn System (congregate labor) to see how 19th-century industrialization reshaped public institutions.
- Analyze how post-Civil War penal policies (convict leasing, Black Codes) rebuilt racial labor hierarchies after Emancipation.
- Trace late 20th-century "tough-on-crime" legislation and the War on Drugs to evaluate how public policy and political rhetoric drive modern mass incarceration.

Law and Religion: America's First Prison Synagogue

Available starting October 30, 2026

Overview: Using the case study of the first synagogue inside an American prison, constructed at Eastern State Penitentiary in 1922, students examine the legal history of religious freedom and how courts have interpreted the boundaries between law and religious practice. ***Additional details coming soon.***

Justice Talks: Policy, Power, & Change

Available starting January 30, 2027

Overview: Students examine today's justice system, the impact of policy on people and communities, and the power of civic engagement to create effective change—exploring systemic consequences while bringing their own lived experiences and values into the discussion. ***Additional details coming soon.***