

American Civics Hearing
Monday, May 12, 2025 5:30 PM
Media Center
802 Highland Street
Wakefield, NE 68784

1. Call to Order
2. Hearing Agenda
 - 2.1. Entertain administrative reports and otherwise verify and confirm compliance with
LB399: the Americanism Bill
Mr. Farup
3. Adjournment

LB 399 imposes the following requirements that must be met:

1. Each calendar year, the Board must appoint three board members to the “Committee on American Civics.”
 - a. The Committee on American Civics must meet at least twice per year. One meeting must include public testimony. The Committee is to keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.
 - b. During the meetings, the Committee is to review the social studies curriculum to ensure that it aligns with NDE standards and LB 399’s requirements.
2. Students between eighth grade and twelfth grade must complete one of the following:
 - a. Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
 - b. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body . . . followed by the completion of a project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or
 - c. Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed below.
3. For grade levels below sixth grade, at least one hour per week is to be devoted to exercises or teaching American history topics (including those listed in LB 399).
4. For grade levels between fifth grade and eighth grade, there must be time “set aside” for the teaching of American history (including those topics listed in LB 399).
5. In at least two courses in every high school, time shall be devoted to the teaching of civics and American history (as outlined in LB 399).
6. “Appropriate patriotic exercises” are to be held on George Washington’s birthday, Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS CHECKLIST

For the calendar year _____, the Board appointed the following three members to serve on the Committee on American Civics: _____, _____, and _____.

The Committee on American Civics met on the following dates: _____ and _____. (At least two meetings per year are required.)

The Committee accepted public testimony on the following date: _____.

The Committee completed the following tasks (check when completed):

____ Minutes of the Committee on American Civics' meetings have been kept and show the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

____ Confirmed the District's social studies curriculum is aligned with NDE standards.

____ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum stresses the required patriotic themes.

____ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes a requirement, in accordance with state law, that high school students (i) complete a written test; (ii) attend a public meeting; or (iii) present or write a paper on an appropriate topic.

____ Confirmed that the curriculum approved by the Committee is available for public inspection.

____ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes all required components, in accordance with state law and NDE standards, including (a) one hour per week of patriotic instruction for grade levels below sixth grade; (b) a set amount of time to teach American history for grade levels from fifth grade to eighth grade; and (c) at least two courses in high school that teach American civics.

____ Confirmed that the District will conduct appropriate patriotic exercises for the following holidays: George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day