

Committee on American Civics

October 9, 2023, at 7:15 PM

Southern School District

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Board of Education, Southern School District #1 on October 9, 2023, at 7:15 PM at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room in Wymore. A current agenda is also available at the office of the Superintendent.

I hereby certify that the above notice was posted in three public places as follows:

Southern Elementary School

Southern Jr./Sr. High School

U.S. Post Office in Wymore

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 - I.A. Committee on American Civics Statute 79-724
 - I.B. Accept Public Comment on the topic of American Civics
 - I.C. District Policies Related to the topic of American Civics
 - I.D. Review the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum
 - I.E. Patriotic Exercises
 - I.F. Requirements (8th & 12th Grade) Related to the American Civics Statute
- II. Adjournment



NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724

[Revised Statutes](#) » [Chapter 79](#) » [79-724](#)

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[◀ 79-723](#) | [Chapter 79 Index](#) | [79-725 ▶](#)

Chapter 79

79-724.

Committee on American civics; created; duties; school board, State Board of Education, and superintendent; duties.

It is the responsibility of society to ensure that youth are given the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens to ensure a strong, stable, just, and prosperous America. Such a citizenry necessitates that every member thereof be knowledgeable of our nation's history, government, geography, and economic system. The youth in our state should be committed to the ideals and values of our country's democracy and the constitutional republic established by the people. Schools should help prepare our youth to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Civic competence is necessary to sustain and improve our democratic way of life and must be taught in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools. A central role of schools is to impart civic knowledge and skills that help our youth to see the relevance of a civic dimension for their lives. Students should be made fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and advantages we possess and the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these benefits were gained. Since young people are most susceptible to the acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence them throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of our educational system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks, and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the youth of our state have the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil American citizens.

(1) The school board of each school district shall, at the beginning of each calendar year, appoint from its members a committee of three, to be known as the committee on American civics, which shall:

- (a) Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;
- (b) 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;
- (c) Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section [79-760.01](#) and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
- (d) Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections [79-719](#) to [79-723](#) in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
- (e) Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
- (f) Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section [79-760.01](#);
- (g) Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
 - (i) 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
 - (ii) Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section [84-1409](#) 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



(iii) 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 in subdivision (6) of this section or on a topic related to such person or persons or event; and

(h) Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

(2) All social studies courses approved for grade levels as provided by this section shall include and adequately stress contributions of all ethnic groups to (a) the development and growth of America into a great nation, (b) art, music, education, medicine, literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) the military in all of this nation's wars.

(3) All grades of all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour per week to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose:

(a) The discussion of noteworthy events pertaining to American history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans;

(b) The historical background, memorization, and singing of patriotic songs such as the Star-Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful;

(c) The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom; and

(d) Instruction as to proper conduct in the presentation of the American flag.

(4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to the eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools, time shall be set aside for the teaching of American history from the social studies curriculum, which shall be taught in such a manner that all students are given the opportunity to (a) become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska and (b) prepare to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world.

(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 the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section [79-760.01](#), during which specific attention shall be given to the following matters:

(a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state;

(b) The benefits and advantages of representative government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to, Nazism and communism;

(c) The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and

(d) The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.

(6) Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school 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.

(7) Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section. Neglect thereof by any employee may be considered a cause for dismissal.

Source

Laws 1949, c. 256, § 19, p. 697;

Laws 1969, c. 705, § 1, p. 2705;

Laws 1971, LB 292, § 3;

R.S.1943, (1994), § 79-213;

Laws 1996, LB 900, § 398;

[Laws 1999, LB 272, § 86](#);

[Laws 2011, LB544, § 1](#);

[Laws 2019, LB399, § 1](#).

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Cross References



- Flag display requirements**, see section [79-707](#).
- Violation**, penalty, see section [79-727](#).

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Nebraska Open Meetings Act

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1) (a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; videoconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of

an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if:

(a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used;

(c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference;

(d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and

(e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or (ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.

Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if:

(a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county;

(b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) A nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section;

(c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used;

(e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call;

(f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site;

(g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and

(h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, committee's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that: (i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and (ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by means of electronic or telecommunication equipment. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right

to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making a telephone conference call available at an instate location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act;

(f) Reasonable arrangements are made to provide viewing at other instate locations for a videoconference meeting if requested fourteen days in advance and if economically and reasonably available in the area; and

(g) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised
10/2020



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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SPEAK:
This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board about matters of public concern.

- **Getting Started:** When you have been recognized, please identify yourself, including an address and the name of any organization you represent. The board may waive the address requirement to protect the security of the individual.
- **Time Limit:** The board will generally allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to around 5 minutes. If there are more than 6 individuals who wish to address the board, the 30 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or a student matter involving an individual, please understand that the district has a complaint policy and/or procedures to resolve such complaints and concerns. The Board requests that you follow the policy and procedures before addressing these matters with the Board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments about individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from the audience while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated.
- **No Action by the Board:** The board will not act on any matter unless it is on the published agenda.

2002
Organization of the Board, Board Officers, Check Signing, and
Committees

1. Membership, Term and Election

- a. The Board of Education shall be comprised of six members who will be elected at large.
- b. Those who wish to serve on the board shall file, be elected, and serve terms of office on the board according to law.

2. Internal Organization and Officers

a. President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The president shall preside at all board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the board.

b. Vice President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a vice president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the board.

c. Secretary

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The secretary shall serve in that capacity for one year. If the secretary is a member of the board, an assistant secretary may be named and his or her duties and compensation set by the board.

- ii. The secretary shall see that an accurate record of the proceedings of the board is kept, that a copy of the proceedings is provided to each board member and to the superintendent, and that a concise summary of each month's meeting is published along with a list of all approved claims. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by law and assigned by the board.

d. Treasurer

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect, employ, or appoint a treasurer who need not be a member of the board if permitted by law. The treasurer shall serve in that capacity for one year, unless the board designates a longer term for the treasurer.
- ii. The treasurer may be designated to sign checks and certain other documents. The treasurer is the custodian of the monies of the district.
- iii. The treasurer shall give bond or equivalent insurance coverage payable to the district as prescribed by law with the cost of the bond being paid by the district.
- iv. The treasurer shall issue no warrant of payment of claim against the district until such claim has been duly authorized.

3. Signing and Authorizing Checks, Warrants, and other Instruments.

- a. Unless otherwise delegated by the board, the president and secretary of the board shall sign checks, warrants, and other instruments of the district.
- b. The board may delegate another person to sign and validate any checks, warrants, and other instruments. Facsimile signatures of board members may be used.
- c. The board delegates that the vice president or treasurer may sign any warrant in the absence of either the president or the secretary.

4. Board Officer Voting and Tie Breakers

- a. The vote to elect board officers may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.
- b. In the event any officer cannot be elected by a majority after 10 votes; no votes occur after ten motions fail for lack of a "second,"; or no member volunteers to serve as an officer for a particular position, the tie will be broken by the applicable method:
 - i. If the board is split between two members, the officer will be determined by coin flip. The winning member will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
 - ii. If the board is split between more than two members who wish to serve as the officer, any member wanting to serve as the officer will put his or her name into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
 - iii. If no member is willing to serve as an officer for a position which is required to be a member of the board, all non-officers' names will be put into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

5. Committees

- a. The board shall authorize such special committees as it deems necessary. The board president shall appoint members to the committee, and designate its function, tasks it is to perform, and a completion date for its work.
- b. On or before the beginning of each calendar year, the board shall appoint three members to form a Committee on American Civics. The committee's duties shall be those prescribed by Nebraska statutes, which include:
 - i. Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one where public testimony is accepted;

- ii. 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;
- iii. Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
- iv. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719 to 79-723 in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
- v. Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
- vi. Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;
- vii. Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
 - 1. 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
 - 2. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section 84-1409 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

3. 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 in section 79-724(6) or on a topic related to such person or persons or event;
- viii. Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

6. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy on the board of education shall exist when any one of the following occurs:
 - i. A member submits his or her formal resignation from the board.
 - ii. A member removes himself or herself from the district or is absent from the district for a continuous period of sixty days.
 - iii. A member misses more than two consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members.
 - iv. Such other reasons as are set forth in Nebraska statutes.
- b. The board shall make note the vacancy in its minutes and shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term to (1) the election commissioner or county clerk, and (2) the public by published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.
- c. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner set forth in Nebraska statutes.

Adopted on: 7-9-2018
Revised on: 6-8-2020
Reviewed on: 2-10-2020

6012
Flag Display and Patriotic Observances

The district shall display the flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska prominently on the grounds of every school building each day that school is in session.

Each building principal shall be responsible for the care and display of the flags at his/her assigned building, and shall adhere to the rules and customs pertaining to the use and display of the flags as set forth in the United States Code.

Each day, at the time designated by the building administrator, staff shall ensure that students in grades K-12 will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Pupil participation in the recitation of pledge shall be voluntary. Pupils who elect not to participate shall sit or stand silently and must respect the rights of those students choosing to participate.

Adopted on: 2-11-2019

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6032
Constitution Day Education

Each year on September 17, designated as Constitution Day, the school district will conduct a program designed to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the district will provide this program during the preceding or following week.

The program shall be implemented within the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: 3-11-2019

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____



Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

- 1. What is the supreme law of the land?**
 - *the Constitution*
- 2. What does the Constitution do?**
 - *sets up the government*
 - *defines the government*
 - *protects basic rights of Americans*
- 3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?**
 - *We the People*
- 4. What is an amendment?**
 - *a change (to the Constitution)*
 - *an addition (to the Constitution)*
- 5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**
 - *the Bill of Rights*
- 6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?***
 - *speech*
 - *religion*
 - *assembly*
 - *press*
 - *petition the government*
- 7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?**
 - *twenty-seven (27)*

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

8. **What did the Declaration of Independence do?**
 - *announced our independence (from Great Britain)*
 - *declared our independence (from Great Britain)*
 - *said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)*
9. **What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?**
 - *life*
 - *liberty*
 - *pursuit of happiness*
10. **What is freedom of religion?**
 - *You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*
11. **What is the economic system in the United States?***
 - *capitalist economy*
 - *market economy*
12. **What is the “rule of law”?**
 - *Everyone must follow the law.*
 - *Leaders must obey the law.*
 - *Government must obey the law.*
 - *No one is above the law.*

B: System of Government

13. **Name one branch or part of the government.***
 - *Congress*
 - *legislative*
 - *President*
 - *executive*
 - *the courts*
 - *judicial*
14. **What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?**
 - *checks and balances*
 - *separation of powers*
15. **Who is in charge of the executive branch?**
 - *the President*
16. **Who makes federal laws?**
 - *Congress*
 - *Senate and House (of Representatives)*
 - *(U.S. or national) legislature*
17. **What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?***
 - *the Senate and House (of Representatives)*
18. **How many U.S. Senators are there?**
 - *one hundred (100)*

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19. **We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?**
 - *six (6)*
20. **Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?***
 - *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]*
21. **The House of Representatives has how many voting members?**
 - *four hundred thirty-five (435)*
22. **We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?**
 - *two (2)*
23. **Name your U.S. Representative.**
 - *Answers will vary. [Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]*
24. **Who does a U.S. Senator represent?**
 - *all people of the state*
25. **Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?**
 - *(because of) the state’s population*
 - *(because) they have more people*
 - *(because) some states have more people*
26. **We elect a President for how many years?**
 - *four (4)*
27. **In what month do we vote for President?***
 - *November*
28. **What is the name of the President of the United States now?***
 - *Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the President of the United States.*
29. **What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?**
 - *Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Vice President of the United States.*
30. **If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**
 - *the Vice President*
31. **If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**
 - *the Speaker of the House*
32. **Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?**
 - *the President*
33. **Who signs bills to become laws?**
 - *the President*
34. **Who vetoes bills?**
 - *the President*
35. **What does the President’s Cabinet do?**
 - *advises the President*

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36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

- *Secretary of Agriculture*
- *Secretary of Commerce*
- *Secretary of Defense*
- *Secretary of Education*
- *Secretary of Energy*
- *Secretary of Health and Human Services*
- *Secretary of Homeland Security*
- *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Secretary of the Interior*
- *Secretary of Labor*
- *Secretary of State*
- *Secretary of Transportation*
- *Secretary of the Treasury*
- *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
- *Attorney General*
- *Vice President*

37. What does the judicial branch do?

- *reviews laws*
- *explains laws*
- *resolves disputes (disagreements)*
- *decides if a law goes against the Constitution*

38. What is the highest court in the United States?

- *the Supreme Court*

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- *Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the number of justices on the Supreme Court.*

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

- *Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.*

41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

- *to print money*
- *to declare war*
- *to create an army*
- *to make treaties*

42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

- *provide schooling and education*
- *provide protection (police)*
- *provide safety (fire departments)*
- *give a driver's license*
- *approve zoning and land use*

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43. **Who is the Governor of your state now?**
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]*
44. **What is the capital of your state?***
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]*
45. **What are the two major political parties in the United States?***
- *Democratic and Republican*
46. **What is the political party of the President now?**
- *Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the political party of the President.*
47. **What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**
- *Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. **There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.**
- *Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).*
 - *You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.*
 - *Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)*
 - *A male citizen of any race (can vote).*
49. **What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?***
- *serve on a jury*
 - *vote in a federal election*
50. **Name one right only for United States citizens.**
- *vote in a federal election*
 - *run for federal office*
51. **What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?**
- *freedom of expression*
 - *freedom of speech*
 - *freedom of assembly*
 - *freedom to petition the government*
 - *freedom of religion*
 - *the right to bear arms*
52. **What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?**
- *the United States*
 - *the flag*
53. **What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?**
- *give up loyalty to other countries*
 - *defend the Constitution and laws of the United States*
 - *obey the laws of the United States*
 - *serve in the U.S. military (if needed)*
 - *serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)*
 - *be loyal to the United States*

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54. **How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?***
- *eighteen (18) and older*
55. **What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?**
- *vote*
 - *join a political party*
 - *help with a campaign*
 - *join a civic group*
 - *join a community group*
 - *give an elected official your opinion on an issue*
 - *call Senators and Representatives*
 - *publicly support or oppose an issue or policy*
 - *run for office*
 - *write to a newspaper*
56. **When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?***
- *April 15*
57. **When must all men register for the Selective Service?**
- *at age eighteen (18)*
 - *between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)*

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. **What is one reason colonists came to America?**
- *freedom*
 - *political liberty*
 - *religious freedom*
 - *economic opportunity*
 - *practice their religion*
 - *escape persecution*
59. **Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?**
- *American Indians*
 - *Native Americans*
60. **What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?**
- *Africans*
 - *people from Africa*
61. **Why did the colonists fight the British?**
- *because of high taxes (taxation without representation)*
 - *because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)*
 - *because they didn't have self-government*

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- 62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**
- *(Thomas) Jefferson*
- 63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?**
- *July 4, 1776*
- 64. There were 13 original states. Name three.**
- *New Hampshire*
 - *Massachusetts*
 - *Rhode Island*
 - *Connecticut*
 - *New York*
 - *New Jersey*
 - *Pennsylvania*
 - *Delaware*
 - *Maryland*
 - *Virginia*
 - *North Carolina*
 - *South Carolina*
 - *Georgia*
- 65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**
- *The Constitution was written.*
 - *The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.*
- 66. When was the Constitution written?**
- *1787*
- 67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.**
- *(James) Madison*
 - *(Alexander) Hamilton*
 - *(John) Jay*
 - *Publius*
- 68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?**
- *U.S. diplomat*
 - *oldest member of the Constitutional Convention*
 - *first Postmaster General of the United States*
 - *writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”*
 - *started the first free libraries*
- 69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?**
- *(George) Washington*
- 70. Who was the first President?***
- *(George) Washington*

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B: 1800s

- 71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?**
- *the Louisiana Territory*
 - *Louisiana*
- 72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.**
- *War of 1812*
 - *Mexican-American War*
 - *Civil War*
 - *Spanish-American War*
- 73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.**
- *the Civil War*
 - *the War between the States*
- 74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.**
- *slavery*
 - *economic reasons*
 - *states' rights*
- 75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?***
- *freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*
 - *saved (or preserved) the Union*
 - *led the United States during the Civil War*
- 76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?**
- *freed the slaves*
 - *freed slaves in the Confederacy*
 - *freed slaves in the Confederate states*
 - *freed slaves in most Southern states*
- 77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?**
- *fought for women's rights*
 - *fought for civil rights*

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

- 78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.***
- *World War I*
 - *World War II*
 - *Korean War*
 - *Vietnam War*
 - *(Persian) Gulf War*
- 79. Who was President during World War I?**
- *(Woodrow) Wilson*
- 80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?**
- *(Franklin) Roosevelt*

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- 81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?**
- *Japan, Germany, and Italy*
- 82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?**
- *World War II*
- 83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?**
- *Communism*
- 84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?**
- *civil rights (movement)*
- 85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?***
- *fought for civil rights*
 - *worked for equality for all Americans*
- 86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?**
- *Terrorists attacked the United States.*
- 87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.**
[USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]
- *Cherokee*
 - *Navajo*
 - *Sioux*
 - *Chippewa*
 - *Choctaw*
 - *Pueblo*
 - *Apache*
 - *Iroquois*
 - *Creek*
 - *Blackfeet*
 - *Seminole*
 - *Cheyenne*
 - *Arawak*
 - *Shawnee*
 - *Mohegan*
 - *Huron*
 - *Oneida*
 - *Lakota*
 - *Crow*
 - *Teton*
 - *Hopi*
 - *Inuit*

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INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- *Missouri (River)*
- *Mississippi (River)*

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

- *Pacific (Ocean)*

90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

- *Atlantic (Ocean)*

91. Name one U.S. territory.

- *Puerto Rico*
- *U.S. Virgin Islands*
- *American Samoa*
- *Northern Mariana Islands*
- *Guam*

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

- *Maine*
- *New Hampshire*
- *Vermont*
- *New York*
- *Pennsylvania*
- *Ohio*
- *Michigan*
- *Minnesota*
- *North Dakota*
- *Montana*
- *Idaho*
- *Washington*
- *Alaska*

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

- *California*
- *Arizona*
- *New Mexico*
- *Texas*

94. What is the capital of the United States?*

- *Washington, D.C.*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

- *New York (Harbor)*
- *Liberty Island*

[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]

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B: Symbols

- 96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**
- *because there were 13 original colonies*
 - *because the stripes represent the original colonies*
- 97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?***
- *because there is one star for each state*
 - *because each star represents a state*
 - *because there are 50 states*
- 98. What is the name of the national anthem?**
- *The Star-Spangled Banner*

C: Holidays

- 99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?***
- *July 4*
- 100. Name two national U.S. holidays.**
- *New Year's Day*
 - *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
 - *Presidents' Day*
 - *Memorial Day*
 - *Independence Day*
 - *Labor Day*
 - *Columbus Day*
 - *Veterans Day*
 - *Thanksgiving*
 - *Christmas*

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There are some requirements that we need to meet in our Social Studies Curriculum. September 17th is designated as Constitution Day. This is to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. We had all students watch a video that was a refresher course covering the Constitution. We must also incorporate 1 of 3 items into the curriculum to meet requirements and this must be done prior to the completion of 8th grade and again prior to the completion of 12th grade. We have chosen to administer the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The score of this test must be made available to a parent or guardian of the student.

Sincerely,

Jeff Murphy
7-12 Principal