

Mandatory Curriculum Observation Day September

Constitution Day: September 17 (as per USDE; Public Law 108-447, Section 111(b))

The USDE announced on May 24, 2005 that all local education agencies (LEAs) receiving federal funds, including NCLB and IDEA, must teach about the U.S. Constitution on September 17 of each year as per Public Law 108-447, Section 111(b).

While USDE and the TEA do not endorse any particular program or web site, the informational resources provided below may be useful in developing Constitution Day programs:

Library of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/bdsds.bdsdhome.html>

National Archives

http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/constitution.html

National Archives Nationwide Network of Research Facilities (access limited to students age 14 and above) www.ctredpol.org/pubs/nclby3/forumMay2005.htm

Celebrate Freedom Week: September 17 - 21 (as per HB708 – 80th Regular)

To educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded, the week in which September 17 falls is designated as Celebrate Freedom week in public schools.

The curriculum requires that each social studies class includes, during Celebrate Freedom Week, appropriate instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts. The study of the Declaration of Independence includes the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the American Revolution, the formulation of the United States Constitution, and the abolitionist movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and the women's suffrage movement.

This bill provides for each school district:

(1) to require that, during Celebrate Freedom Week students in grade levels 3 through 12 study and recite the text quoted below:

"WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."; and

(2) to excuse from the recitation a student:

(A) whose parent or guardian submits to the district a written request that the student be excused;

(B) who, as determined by the district, has a conscientious objection to the recitation; or

(C) who is the child of a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity.

Additional resources may be found at The Social Studies Center:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ssc/whatsnew/freedom/freedom.htm>

Documentation:

1. List of Teachers involved
2. Copy of lesson plans in Required Curriculum Days folder