

Constitution Day

School Responsibilities and Guidance

Constitution Day is an annual opportunity to promote civic awareness and understanding of the Constitution among students within the school and district. This day provides an opportunity to celebrate the roots of our constitutional republic and teach students about America's founding principles.

Background

Section 111 of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005* (Public Law 108-447) requires all educational institutions receiving Federal funding for a fiscal year to provide an educational program on the United States Constitution for their students on or around September 17 annually. If September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the educational institution may conduct an educational program during the preceding or following week, if doing so is likely to increase student participation compared to conducting the programming on September 17.

Program Requirements

The statutory language does not specifically define the nature or scope of the "educational program," leaving institutions with considerable flexibility in designing an appropriate program to observe the day.

Suggested Activities

The specific type of program is not mandated. Potential activities to celebrate Constitution Day are listed below:

- **Host a guest speaker:** Invite a legal expert, historian, teacher, or public or private official to address the school or campus community on a relevant aspect of the Constitution.
- **Organize a panel discussion:** Engage faculty, students, and community members in a discussion about a specific constitutional principle or a current event related to the Constitution.
- **Conduct a public reading of the Constitution:** Encourage students, teachers, and staff, as well as the families of students or members of the community, to participate in a communal reading of the document.
- **Host a mock Constitutional Convention:** Students and teachers can take on the roles of historical figures to represent different viewpoints on contemporary or historical issues related to the Constitution and Constitutional Convention.

- **Facilitate interactive workshops or activities:** Utilize resources like history games or online exhibits curated by the National Constitution Center and the National Archives. Alternatively, create your own activities focusing on the Bill of Rights or other constitutional concepts.
- **Examine your State or local history and its connection to Constitutional issues:** Engage students, teachers, parents, local historians, and residents to host discussions relating to State and local connections to key historical issues involving the Constitution and how those issues helped shape current and future life in your State or local community.

Resources

Resources to assist in planning and implementing Constitution Day programs are available on a variety of websites, including:

- **U.S. Department of Education website** (<https://www.ed.gov/teaching-and-administration/teaching-resources/instructional-resources/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>): Offers a section dedicated to Constitution Day and Citizenship Day with links to publicly accessible educational materials from the three branches of government.
- **National Constitution Center** (<https://constitutioncenter.org/education/constitution-day-resources>): Provides educational resources, exhibits, and lesson plans related to the Constitution.
- **National Archives** (<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/constitution-day>) and the **Library of Congress website** (<https://www.loc.gov/extranet/cld/constitution.html>): Contains virtual copies of historical documents and resources pertaining to the Constitution.
- **Federal Courts** (<https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>): Participate in Constitution Day by offering educational resources and programs in their communities.
- **Constitution Day Hub** ([Constitution Day Hub | Constitution Day Hub](#)): Discover engaging, standards-aligned, trusted educational resources for Constitution Day.

U.S. Department of Education. (2025, September 15). Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (Constitution Day) is observed on September 17 (DCL ID GEN-25-06).

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