

SENATE FILE NO. SF0143

Civics proficiency.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Pappas, Agar, Bebout and Biteman and
Representative(s) Brown, Clem, Henderson,
Lindholm and Miller

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring passage of an
2 examination on the principles of the constitutions of the
3 United States and the state of Wyoming to receive a high
4 school diploma or high school equivalency certificate;
5 specifying examination requirements and composition;
6 providing legislative findings; and providing for an
7 effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iv) and 21-9-102 are
12 amended to read:

13

14 **21-2-304. Duties of the state board of education.**

15

1 (a) The state board of education shall:

2

3 (iv) In consultation with local school districts,
4 establish requirements for students to earn a high school
5 diploma as evidenced by course completion and passage of an
6 examination on the principles of the constitutions of the
7 United States and the state of Wyoming in accordance with
8 W.S. 21-9-102, and as measured by each district's assessment
9 system prescribed by rule and regulation of the state board
10 and required under W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). Once every five
11 (5) years and on a staggered basis, the state board shall
12 through the department, review and approve each district's
13 assessment system designed to determine the various levels of
14 student performance as aligned with the uniform state
15 standards and the attainment of high school graduation
16 requirements as evidenced by course completion and passage of
17 an examination on the principles of the constitutions of the
18 United States and the state of Wyoming in accordance with
19 W.S. 21-9-102. In addition and following review, refinement
20 and revision of student content and performance standards
21 adopted under paragraph (a)(iii) of this section and reviewed
22 under subsection (c) of this section, the board shall
23 establish a process to ensure district assessment systems are

1 aligned with the refined and revised standards within three
2 (3) full school years following adoption of revised
3 standards;

4

5 **21-9-102. Instruction in state and federal**
6 **constitutions required; satisfactory examination a**
7 **prerequisite to graduation and high school equivalency**
8 **certification; composition of examination.**

9

10 (a) The state of Wyoming finds that the study of
11 American civics encompasses what it means to be a good
12 citizen, fosters an understanding of how government works and
13 informs citizens on how they can participate and influence
14 their government.

15

16 (b) All schools and colleges in this state that are
17 supported in any manner by public funds shall give instruction
18 in the essentials of the United States constitution and the
19 constitution of the state of Wyoming, including the study of
20 and devotion to American institution and ideals, and no
21 student shall receive a high school diploma, associate degree
22 or baccalaureate degree or, beginning school year 2020-2021,
23 a high school equivalency certificate without satisfactorily

1 passing an examination on the principles of the ~~constitution~~
2 constitutions of the United States and the state of Wyoming.
3 The instruction shall be given for at least three (3) years
4 in kindergarten through grade eight (8) and for one (1) year
5 each in the secondary and college grades.

6
7 (c) Subject to W.S. 21-9-101(c), every student in
8 grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be afforded at least
9 one (1) opportunity per school year to take the examination
10 on the principles of the constitutions of the United States
11 and the state of Wyoming. A student pursuing a high school
12 equivalency certificate shall be afforded the opportunity to
13 take the examination as part of the Wyoming community college
14 commission's high school equivalency certification program.
15 A student may take the examination as many times as necessary
16 to pass it.

17
18 (d) Beginning school year 2020-2021, for students in
19 grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and students pursuing a
20 high school equivalency certificate, the examination on the
21 principles of the constitutions of the United States and the
22 state of Wyoming shall consist of one hundred (100) questions
23 identical to the questions the United States citizenship and

1 immigration services may ask an individual during the
2 application process for United States citizenship in
3 accordance with 8 U.S.C. § 1423. To pass the examination, a
4 student shall answer correctly not less than sixty percent
5 (60%) of the examination's questions. The requirements for
6 the examination under this subsection shall not apply to
7 students seeking an associate degree or baccalaureate degree.

8
9 (e) This section is subject to a student's
10 individualized education program under the federal
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

12
13 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

14
15 (END)