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American Heritage
Policy Series: 4000 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Policy No. 4335

American Heritage in the Curriculum

American Heritage in the curriculum classes which include a focus on American heritage, including American History, in which the subject matter is relevant, shall include thorough study of the: Declaration of Independence; United States Constitution; National Motto; Pledge of Allegiance; National Anthem; Mayflower Compact; Writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founders and the Presidents of the United States; organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial, Revolutionary, Federalist and post Federalist eras; United States Supreme Court decisions, the Ten Commandments; the Magna Carta; and, Acts of the United States Congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record; and, United States treaties.

~~Instruction in American history and government shall include study of forms of government (such as a republic, a pure democracy, a monarchy, and an oligarchy), political philosophies (such as socialism, individualism, and free market capitalism), and the United States' form of government (a compound constitutional republic).~~

Instruction in American United States history and government shall include study of forms of government (such as a republic, a pure democracy, a monarchy, and an oligarchy), political philosophies (such as socialism, individualism, and free market capitalism), the United States' form of government (a compound constitutional republic), and the flag of the United States and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Civics Graduation Requirement

Each student must pass a basic civics test as a condition for graduation from high school unless the student qualifies for an alternate assessment. A "basic civics test" means a test that includes 50 of the questions on the civics test form used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A passing score is at least 35 out of 50 questions answered correctly. The student may take the test as many times as needed to pass the test.

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38 A student qualifies to take an alternate assessment if the student is within six months of
39 graduation or if the student has a disability and the alternate assessment is consistent with the
40 student's IEP.

41 The alternate assessment shall be given in the same manner as the examination given to an
42 unnaturalized citizen and according to 8 CFR § 312.2. However, the District may modify the
43 manner of administration for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's IEP.

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45 **Posting American Heritage Documents**

46 Schools may post copies of American historical documents or historically important excerpts
47 from these documents in school classrooms and common areas as appropriate. If a school
48 decides to post an excerpt from a particular document, the portions omitted should not be
49 deleted for the purpose of censoring religious or cultural content.

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51 **Display of the National Motto**

52 The national motto of the United States, which is declared by federal statute to be "In God We
53 Trust," shall be displayed in one or more prominent places within each school building in the
54 District.

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56 **Pledge of Allegiance**

57 The pledge of allegiance to the flag shall be recited once at the beginning of each day in each
58 public school classroom in the state and, led by a student in the classroom, as assigned by the
59 classroom teacher on a rotating basis. Each student shall be informed by posting a notice in a
60 conspicuous place that the student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge. A
61 ~~student shall be excused from reciting the pledge upon written request from the student's parent~~
62 ~~or legal guardian.~~ A minor student shall be excused from reciting the pledge upon written
63 request from the student's parent provided at least once per year.

64

65 ~~At least once a year students shall be instructed that participation in the pledge of allegiance is~~
66 ~~voluntary and not compulsory, but students should show respect for any student who chooses~~
67 ~~not to participate. Likewise, students who choose not to participate in the pledge should show~~
68 ~~respect to those who choose to participate.~~

69

70 At least once a year, students shall be instructed that participation in the pledge of allegiance is
71 voluntary and not compulsory; and not only is it acceptable for someone to choose not to
72 participate in the pledge of allegiance for religious or other reasons, but students should show
73 respect for any student who chooses not to participate.

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75 **Parental Notice and Information**

76 The district shall make information available on its website about the flag, respect for the flag,
77 and civility toward others during patriotic activities.

78 This information shall include:

- 79 • notice about lawful exemptions to the requirement for students to participate in the
80 Pledge of Allegiance;
81 • the right of students not to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance;
82 • that participation in the Pledge of Allegiance is voluntary and not compulsory; and
83 • that students should show respect for any student who chooses not to participate for
84 religious or other reasons.
85 • Likewise, students who choose not to participate in the pledge should show respect to
86 those who choose to participate

87 The district shall also notify parents that a student may be excused from reciting the Pledge of
88 Allegiance upon written annual request of the student's parent.

89 A public school teacher shall strive to maintain an atmosphere among students in the
90 classroom that is consistent with the principles described above.

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92 **Synopsis:**

93 Curriculum:Parental Consent

94 Political and Religious Doctrine Prohibited (6)

95 Maintaining Constitutional Freedom in Schools

96 Waivers of Participation Study and Posting of American Heritage Documents Instruction on the
97 flag of the United States of America 36 U.S.C. § 302 National Motto

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99 **Legal References:**

100 [Utah Code § 53E-4-205](#)

101 [Utah Code § 53G-10-302](#)

102 [Utah Code § 53G-10-304](#)

103 [Utah Administrative Rule R277-475](#)

104 [Utah Administrative Rule R277-700-8](#)

105 [8 CFR § 312.2](#)

106 [36 U.S.C. § 302 — National Motto](#)

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108 **Board Approved:** October 14, 2014

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