

American Civics Hearing
Monday, April 13, 2026 5:30 PM
Media Center
802 Highland Street
Wakefield, NE 68784

1. Call to Order
2. LB 399 Hearing Agenda
 - 2.1. Review of Compliance with Nebraska Statute § 79-724 (American Civics Committee) / LB 399
Mr. Farup
3. Adjournment

LB 399 imposes the following requirements that must be met:

1. Each calendar year, the Board must appoint three board members to the “Committee on American Civics.”
 - a. The Committee on American Civics must meet at least twice per year. One meeting must include public testimony. The Committee is to 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.
 - b. During the meetings, the Committee is to review the social studies curriculum to ensure that it aligns with NDE standards and LB 399’s requirements.
2. Students between eighth grade and twelfth grade must complete one of the following:
 - a. 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
 - b. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body . . . 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
 - c. 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 below.
3. For grade levels below sixth grade, at least one hour per week is to be devoted to exercises or teaching American history topics (including those listed in LB 399).
4. For grade levels between fifth grade and eighth grade, there must be time “set aside” for the teaching of American history (including those topics listed in LB 399).
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 LB 399).
6. “Appropriate patriotic exercises” are to be held 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.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS CHECKLIST

For the calendar year _____, the Board appointed the following three members to serve on the Committee on American Civics: _____, _____, and _____.

The Committee on American Civics met on the following dates: _____ and _____. (At least two meetings per year are required.)

The Committee accepted public testimony on the following date: _____.

The Committee completed the following tasks (check when completed):

____ Minutes of the Committee on American Civics' meetings have been kept and show the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

____ Confirmed the District's social studies curriculum is aligned with NDE standards.

____ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum stresses the required patriotic themes.

____ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes a requirement, in accordance with state law, that high school students (i) complete a written test; (ii) attend a public meeting; or (iii) present or write a paper on an appropriate topic.

____ Confirmed that the curriculum approved by the Committee is available for public inspection.

____ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes all required components, in accordance with state law and NDE standards, including (a) one hour per week of patriotic instruction for grade levels below sixth grade; (b) a set amount of time to teach American history for grade levels from fifth grade to eighth grade; and (c) at least two courses in high school that teach American civics.

____ Confirmed that the District will conduct appropriate patriotic exercises for the following holidays: 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

****Nebraska §79-724 / LB 399**

American Civics Committee Compliance Checklist**

A. Annual Board Requirements

- **Committee appointed** at the first board meeting of the calendar year
 - Minimum required members appointed from the board
 - Any additional required members (if your local policy adds them)
 - **Committee charge adopted/acknowledged** (review of social studies curriculum, oversight, public access, etc.)
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B. Committee Meeting Requirements

- **At least TWO public meetings held during the calendar year**
 - Date of Meeting 1: _____
 - Date of Meeting 2: _____
- **At least ONE meeting includes public testimony**
 - Sign-in sheet and/or public comment log kept
 - Public notice posted within legal timelines
- **Minutes taken** for each meeting including:
 - Time and place
 - Members present/absent
 - Substance/details of all matters discussed

- Actions taken and recommendations
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C. Curriculum Oversight & Review

- Committee reviewed **all social studies curriculum** for alignment with:
 - Nebraska Social Studies Standards (§79-760.01)
 - Required patriotic, civic, and historic content
 - Multicultural education statutes (§§79-719 to 79-723)
 - Committee verified curriculum includes:
 - Study of the Declaration of Independence
 - Study of U.S. Constitution
 - Study of Nebraska Constitution
 - Founding documents
 - Duties of citizenship
 - Local government and civic institutions
 - Contributions of veterans, military service members, and civic leaders
 - Committee **approved** the social studies curriculum for the district
 - Curriculum is **publicly available** and includes **reference to §79-724**
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D. Required Instruction Checks

- **Grades K-5**
 - Below grade 6: **At least 1 hour/week** devoted to patriotic/historical instruction

- Includes respect for the flag, patriotic songs, and civic understanding
 - **Grades 5-8**
 - Instruction in **at least two** of these grades includes:
 - American history, civics, constitutions, and democratic foundations
 - **High School (Grades 9-12)**
 - At least **two courses** include required civics/American history content
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E. Required Student Experience (Grades 8–12)

Each student must complete **one of the three** required civics experiences:

- **Option 1:** Naturalization test
 - Given **before end of 8th grade**
 - Given **again before end of 12th grade**
 - Score provided to parent/guardian

OR

- **Option 2:** Attendance/participation in a public meeting
 - Student completes required reflection project or paper

OR

- **Option 3:** Project/paper/presentation
 - On a civic holiday, person, or event included in approved curriculum
 - Completed between grades 8–12

F. Assessment Requirements

- District uses **formative, interim, AND summative** assessments
 - Specifically to measure student mastery of the state social studies standards
- Committee reviewed assessment results or assessment processes

G. Reporting & Board Oversight

- Committee provided a formal **report to the board** including recommendations
- Board reviewed and accepted the committee report
- Any changes to curriculum or instructional practices documented
- Evidence of oversight included in board minutes/agendas

H. Compliance Accountability

- Board ensured compliance across the district
 - Superintendent confirmed implementation
 - Any issues or deficiencies addressed promptly
 - Documentation maintained for accreditation and possible audit
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