
Civics Instruction:

The passing of House Bill 157:1 and Pursuant to 189:11, II

NHDOE FACT SHEET



25 Hall Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 – www.education.nh.gov

157:1 Civics Instruction. Amend RSA 189:11, II to read as follows:

II. As a component of instruction under paragraph I, a locally developed competency assessment of United States government and civics that includes, but is not limited to, the nature, purpose, structure, function, and history of the United States government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and noteworthy government and civic leaders, shall be administered to students as part of the required high school course in history and government of the United States and New Hampshire. To be eligible for a graduation certificate, a student shall attain a locally sanctioned passing grade on the competency assessment, and a grade of 70 percent or better on the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services. Schools may modify the naturalization examination for a child with a disability in accordance with the child's individualized education program. By June 30 of each year, each school district shall submit the results of either the locally developed competency assessment of United States government and civics or the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test to the department of education. 157:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

House Bill 157:1, effective July 1, 2023, requires students to pass a locally developed competency assessment in civics, and pass the naturalization examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services with a 70 percent or better, in order to graduate from high school. School districts will be required to submit the results of both tests by June 30th of each year to the NH DOE.

The Department is presenting this NH DOE Fact Sheet as a guide to assist districts and schools with their adherence to the requirements of 189:11, II, with respect to Civics Competency Assessment as a High School Graduation Requirement.

Civics Test

- Schools are required to administer the full 128 question civics test developed by USCIS.
- Students are required to answer a minimum of 90 questions correct (70%). This will be tracked locally by the teacher, school and/or district.
- The administration of the test is at discretion of the district and/or school. This includes:
 - Assessment format (digital, paper)
 - Modification of the test or accommodations determinations for students with disabilities based on the student's IEP.
 - Test timing or number of questions per session
 - When students will take the test
 - Number of times students take the test
- Test security measures are not applicable as the questions are static and answers are available online.
- Test should not be administered as an "open book" test.
- For students transferring in from out of state, it is a local decision whether the results notated on a transcript meets the requirement.

Civics Competency Based Assessment

- Schools are required to create a local, competency-based assessment for students that includes, but is not limited to, the nature, purpose, structure, function, and history of the United States government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and noteworthy government and civic leaders.
- The NHDOE does not need to review the competency-based civics assessments created by schools.

Reporting

- Data will be collected as part of the year-end EOY submission.
- Law takes effect, July 2023. Data submissions will be required to be submitted in the EOY, starting June 30, 2024.

- Reporting will include:
 - Proficient/Not Proficient for the Civics Test
 - Proficient/Not Proficient for the Civics Competency Based Assessment

- Parent exemption from the civics assessments is not allowed as it is a graduation requirement.

Resources:

Civics Flash Cards

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/flash-cards/M-623_red_slides.pdf

Civics Lessons

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/flash-cards/M-638_red.pdf

Questions can be directed to Academics@doe.nh.gov