



<p><b>Subject:</b> <i>Instruction in National and State History and Government and Civics</i></p> <p><b>Date Issued:</b> <i>October 10, 2024</i></p>	<p><b>Legal Reference – HB 1014 (2023-2024 Legislative Session)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>RSA 189:11, 1c(f)</i></li> <li>• <i>RSA 189:23</i></li> </ul>
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This Technical Advisory continues the New Hampshire Department of Education’s communication regarding new legislation which was passed during the 2023-2024 legislative session. House Bill (HB) 1014, *Instruction in National and State History and Government and Civics*, amends *RSA 189:11, 1c(f)* to read as follows:

***(f) The role, opportunities, and responsibilities of a citizen to engage in civic activity. This shall include information on the laws governing election and voting pursuant to RSA 189:23.***

***HB 1014 became effective September 10, 2024.***

By way of relevant background, *RSA 189:11* currently requires that all public and non-public schools are required to provide regular courses of instruction in history, government, and the United States and New Hampshire Constitutions, and for civics education as follows:

*Elementary Grades:* Dedicated class time for civics in each elementary grade which can be integrated with other subjects;

*Middle School (6, 7, or 8):* A half-year course or the equivalent of a half-year civics course;

*High School:* A half-year course of instruction in civics and a one-year course of instruction in history, government, and the constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire. Both courses of instruction are required for graduation.

***Development of Courses:***

School districts must develop and offer courses on United States and New Hampshire history, government, and Constitutions, and civics courses, as set forth above, and the courses must include, *at a minimum*, the following areas:

- (a) Opportunities and responsibilities for civic involvement;
- (b) Skills to effectively participate in civic affairs;
- (c) The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and the principles [to include the principle of natural rights as a foundation of the Declaration of Independence, and] the Articles

and Amendments of the U.S. Constitution that provide the foundation for the democratic government of the United States;

(d) The New Hampshire constitution and the principles stated in the articles of the New Hampshire constitution that provide the foundation for the democratic government of New Hampshire;

(e) The structure and functions of the 3 branches comprising federal and state governments—legislative, judicial, and executive;

***(f) The role, opportunities, and responsibilities of a citizen to engage in civic activity. This shall include information on the laws governing election and voting pursuant to RSA 189:23.***

(g) The role and interactions of the state of New Hampshire and local governments within the framework of the U.S. Constitution and of extended powers and functions provided to local governments;

(h) How federal, state, and local governments address problems and issues by making decisions, creating laws, enforcing regulations, and taking action;

(i) The role and actions of government in the flow of economic activity and the regulation of monetary policy;

(j) How intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred and discrimination have evolved in the past, and can evolve, into genocide and mass violence, such as the Holocaust, and how to prevent the evolution of such practices.

It is worth mentioning that other than the addition of the Declaration of Independence, the areas enumerated above as already require in current law.

**For questions related to this Technical Advisory, please contact:**

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