

Subject: <i>Civics Instruction</i>	Legal Reference – HB 1367 (2021-2022 Legislative Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RSA 189:11, II
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*This Technical Advisory continues the New Hampshire Department of Education’s communication regarding new legislation, which was passed during the 2021-2022 legislative session. HB 1367 amends RSA 189:11, II, which pertains to civics instruction. **This law becomes effective July 1, 2023.***

During the 2021-2022 legislative session, HB 1367 was passed into law as a “housekeeping” measure to amend the pre-existing statute, RSA 189:11, pursuant to civics instruction requirements for all *public* and *non-public* schools.

By way of relevant background, pursuant to RSA 189:11, all public and non-public schools are required to provide a regular course of instruction in the history, government, and United States and New Hampshire Constitutions. This course of instruction is required to start no later than eighth (8th) grade and must continue in all high schools as a component of a one credit course which is required for high school graduation in US and NH history and a half credit course which is required for high school graduation in US and NH government and civics.

To be eligible for a graduation certificate, students in both public and non-public schools 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 (USCIS).

Public schools are required to report the results of the assessment to the Department of Education.

Under the previous version of the law, local public-school districts could choose which assessment result it reported to the Department—either the local developed competency or the USCIS exam. However, under the provisions of HB 1367, public-school districts are required to report the results of the 128 question United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) assessment to the Department by June 30 of each year.

Additionally, while the law currently provides that the school may modify the naturalization examination for a child with a disability in accordance with the child’s individualized education program (IEP), HB 1367 added clarifying language that schools are also required to provide accommodations in accordance with the child’s IEP or 504 plan.

[HB 1367](#) will become effective **July 1, 2023**.

For questions related to this Technical Advisory, please contact:

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