

SCS HCS HBs 1646, 2132 & 1621 -- CIVICS EDUCATION

The bill adds American Civics to the current existing prohibition on students receiving a certificate of graduation without having satisfactorily passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the United States and Missouri constitutions, American history, and American institutions.

This bill creates the Missouri Civics Education Initiative. Any student entering ninth grade after July 1, 2017, who is attending a public, charter, or private school, except for private trade schools, must, as a condition of high school graduation, take and pass an American civics test similar to the civics portion of the United States Naturalization test produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The bill allows the school district to administer the test on American civics in conjunction with testing on the provisions and principles of the United States and Missouri constitutions, American history, and American institutions. The school district may use an on-line test to comply with these provisions.

Each district must adopt a policy permitting a student with a disability to receive a waiver from this requirement, if recommended by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) committee.

This bill also allows a school district to recognize a student's participation in the Constitution Project of the Missouri Supreme Court, as specified in the bill.