



Center for Civic Education

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CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OFFER FREE CONSTITUTION DAY LESSONS ONLINE

The Center for Civic Education and the American Association of School Administrators are offering free lesson plans on the U.S. Constitution for Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, September 17, and Constitution Week, September 17–23. The materials for grades K–12 were adapted from the Center’s **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** and **Foundations of Democracy** curricular materials.

In December 2004, the U.S. Congress passed legislation requiring schools receiving federal funding to present a program on the U. S. Constitution on September 17, the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in 1787, explained Dr. Paul D. Houston, AASA executive director. “The Center’s lesson plans provide school administrators and classroom educators with grade-appropriate materials to meet the requirements of this law.”

The K–12 lesson plans are available for free download on the Center’s website, www.civiced.org. Audio recordings of selected Constitution Day lessons are also available. Topics include authority, limited government, the federal system of government, and the framework of the government. Lessons also examine principles and ideas that have shaped the country’s constitutional heritage.

The Constitution Day lesson plans web page has generated more than 100,000 unique visits in the past two years. “It is encouraging that school administrators and teachers are seeking quality classroom materials to teach the Constitution,” said Charles N. Quigley, the Center’s executive director. “However, results from the *Nation’s Report Card: Civics 2006* show that schools need additional class time, teacher training, and materials to teach civics and citizenship to our future generations.”

In that study, students were tested on their civic knowledge, and only 24 percent of fourth-graders, 22 percent of eighth-graders and 27 percent of 12th-graders could reach a simple mastery of civics called proficient.

“Our system of public education was founded with the twin goals of preparing each generation for the workplace and active citizenship,” Quigley noted. “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and Constitution Week highlight the need for additional civic education in our schools.”

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About the American Association of School Administrators (www.aasa.org)

The American Association of School Administrators, founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across the United States. AASA's members are chief executive officers and senior-level administrators from school districts in every region of the country, in rural, urban and suburban settings.

About the Center for Civic Education (www.civiced.org)

The Center for Civic Education is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization dedicated to fostering the development of informed, responsible participation in civic life by citizens committed to values and principles fundamental to American constitutional democracy. The Center offers a wide range of curricular materials, teacher trainings, community-based programs, and other free resources including the *National Standards for Civics and Government*.

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