

# Florida Department of Education

**Bill Number:** House Bill 105

**Bill Title:** "Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act"

**Bill Sponsor:** Representative McBurney

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2010

**DOE Contact:** Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools, (850) 245-0509

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## Executive Summary:

The bill amends s. 1003.41, F.S., Sunshine State Standards, to:

- Require the reading portion of the language arts curriculum within the Sunshine State Standards to include civics education content for all grade levels beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

The bill amends s. 1003.4256, F.S., General requirements for middle grades promotion, to:

- Require the successful completion of at least a one-semester civics education course in order to be promoted from a school composed of grades 6, 7, and 8, for students entering grade 6 beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.
- Stipulate that the middle school civics education course must address the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and Constitution of the United States.

The bill amends s. 1008.22, F.S., Student assessment program for public schools, to:

- Require the commissioner to develop and administer a statewide end-of-course assessment in civics education at the middle school level. The civics assessment shall be administered as a field test during the 2012-2013 school year and, beginning with the 2013-2014 year, shall constitute 30% of a student's final course grade. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a student must earn passing scores on the civics assessment in order to pass the course and receive course credit.

The bill amends s. 1008.34, F.S., School grading system; school report cards; district grade, to:

- Add the aggregate scores from the middle school civics end-of-course assessment to the calculation for school grades, beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

## General Implementation Timeline:

July 1, 2010                      The act becomes effective.

2011-2012 school year        The reading portion of the language arts curriculum within the Sunshine State Standards must include civics education content.

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2012-2013 school year

Students entering grade 6 must achieve successful completion of at least a one-semester civics education course in the middle grades.

A statewide, standardized end-of-course assessment in civics education must be administered as a **field test** at the middle school level.

2013-2014 school year

A student's performance on the end-of-course assessment in civics education must constitute 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

2014-2015 school year

A student must earn a passing score on the end-of-course assessment in civics education in order to pass the course and receive course credit.