

SB 23 – Civics Education

03.31.26

Version I

SUMMARIZED – INFORMAL SECTIONAL

(This new subsection A is the only substantive change to the bill.)

- A. The State Board shall post and periodically update on DEED's website a list of freely open and available educational resources offering:
1. curriculum on comparative systems of government and civics (CGC);
 2. CGC assessments (test); and
 3. CGC project-based assessments.
- Districts ~~may~~ then choose to draw from that list in developing their own CDC curriculum and assessments locally.
- B. Provides a list of general subject areas of instruction that align with Alaska State Standards for comparative government and civics.
- C. After receiving instruction on the subject areas included in (B), to receive a high school diploma a student must either:
1. pass a semester CGC course;
 2. take a CGC test; or
 3. pass a CGC project-based test of some kind (like run a campaign to adopt a school ban on chewing gum, ruler-swatting, or a vaping ban.);
- D. Exemptions are provided for students who:
1. transfer into AK from another state after completing grade 10;
 2. received instruction on the subject areas described in (B) and achieved a passing score on a similar semester course, assessment or project-based assessment described in (C) from a secondary school in another state or within the previous five years. or
 3. receive a disability waiver.
- E. Student transcripts will note whether the requirement of (C) was satisfied. Students may take the test under (C)(2) repeatedly as needed to achieve a passing score.
- F. DEED shall establish regulations to acknowledge students demonstrating excellent proficiency in civics and provide for a seal or special commendation to be noted on their transcripts and diplomas accordingly.
- G. Clarifies definitions for “open educational resources” (freely available), and “passing score” (70% or higher).

There is an effective date of July 1, 2027.