

In response to recent legislation described in [Act 469](#), the Department is providing guidance for districts to determine how to best implement this policy. Act 469 goes into effect for all students enrolled in a Civics course or substitute in school year 2016-2017 and beyond.

Act 469 Requirements	Department Recommendations
<p>Act 469: “As a means to inform civics-related curricula and instruction, each student enrolled in Civics, or a course permitted to substitute for Civics, shall be administered a test based upon the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to survey his knowledge of the fundamentals of the history, principles, and form of the United States government.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer a test inclusive of the required content to assess students’ knowledge of the subject matter and guide instructional decisions. • Maintain documentation of the assessment administered, student results, and subsequent instructional actions to demonstrate compliance with Act 469.
<p>Act 469: “The curriculum for Civics, and courses permitted to substitute for Civics, shall contain a unit of study that includes civics-related subject matter of which naturalized citizens are required to demonstrate knowledge.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Civics Scope and Sequence to ensure the local Civics course curriculum contains a unit of study that includes civics-related subject matter. • Units 1, 2, and 4 of the Civics Scope and Sequence provide this content.

Civics-Related Content

Information regarding what content is required of individuals pursuing citizenship via naturalization is available [here](#). From this content, as stipulated in Act 469, the Department identified the content below, which is related to “the history, principles, and form of the United States government.”

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

- What is the supreme law of the land?
- What does the Constitution do?
- The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
- What is an amendment?
- What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
- What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
- How many amendments does the Constitution have?
- What did the Declaration of Independence do?
- What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
- What is freedom of religion?
- What is the “rule of law”?

B: System of Government

- Name one branch or part of the government.
- What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
- Who is in charge of the executive branch?
- Who makes federal laws?
- What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
- How many U.S. Senators are there?
- We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
- Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?
- The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
- We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
- Name your U.S. Representative.
- Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
- Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
- We elect a President for how many years?
- What is the name of the President of the United States now?
- What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
- If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
- If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
- Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
- Who signs bills to become laws?
- Who vetoes bills?
- What does the President’s Cabinet do?
- What are two Cabinet-level positions?
- What does the judicial branch do?
- What is the highest court in the United States?
- How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
- Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
- Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
- Who is the Governor of your state now?
- What are the two major political parties in the United States?
- What is the political party of the President now?
- What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

C: Rights and Responsibilities

- There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
- What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
- Name one right only for United States citizens.
- What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?
- What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
- How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
- What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
- When must all men register for the Selective Service?

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

- Why did the colonists fight the British?
- Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
- When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
- What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
- When was the Constitution written?
- The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
- What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
- Who is the “Father of Our Country”?
- Who was the first President?

B: 1800s

- What did Susan B. Anthony do?

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

- What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
- What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?