

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Council on Postsecondary Education and the
2 Kentucky Board of Education, in partnership with the Secretary of the State and other
3 education entities, to develop strategies and a timeline for improving Kentucky students'
4 knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States and the democratic
5 processes.

6 WHEREAS, many students exit secondary and postsecondary education without an
7 in-depth understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens under the Constitution
8 of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, education for citizenship is important to help all students evolve into
10 active participants in a democratic society; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States was founded on the principle of "government by the
12 people"; and

13 WHEREAS, evidence of apathy and decline in confidence that government can
14 solve important national problems appears to be on the rise; and

15 WHEREAS, having comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the
16 Constitution of the United States is fundamental to leadership in a democratic society;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, knowledge and understanding are critical to developing the
19 "communication skills necessary to function in a complex and changing civilization,"
20 specified in KRS 158.645 as one of the capacities needed by all Kentucky students; and

21 WHEREAS, "understanding of governmental processes as they affect the
22 community, the state, and the nation" is also identified by the General Assembly in KRS
23 158.645 as an essential capacity for all Kentucky students; and

24 WHEREAS, students must have a core of basic knowledge about social and cultural
25 issues and institutions in an ever-increasing diverse world to allow them to put their
26 understanding of democracy in perspective; and

27 WHEREAS, public schools and the governing boards of other educational

1 institutions are ultimately responsible for providing the leadership to ensure Kentucky
2 students leave school with the essential skills and knowledge for responsible citizenship;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

5 ➔Section 1. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Council on Postsecondary
6 Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, and the Kentucky Board of
7 Education, in partnership with the Secretary of State and other education entities shall
8 examine the current level of skills and knowledge of Kentucky students relating to the
9 Constitution of the United States and the democratic processes. They shall examine the
10 curriculum requirements at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels for all
11 Kentucky students; assessments of student knowledge at these levels and results of those
12 assessments; requirements for teacher competencies in these areas; and other relevant
13 data and information that would inform the study.

14 ➔Section 2. The entities identified in Section 1 of this Resolution shall devise
15 implementation strategies, including a specific timeline to improve Kentucky students'
16 knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the United States, the democratic
17 processes, and the students' civic engagement. In the development of these strategies,
18 current state efforts to promote civic literacy shall be incorporated where appropriate.

19 ➔Section 3. The commissioner of education, the executive director of the
20 Education Professional Standards Board, and the President of the Council on
21 Postsecondary Education shall provide a report to the Interim Joint Committee on
22 Education by August 1, 2024, and shall present the draft implementation plan required
23 under Section 2 of this Resolution by December 1, 2024, to the Interim Joint Committee
24 on Education.