

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.