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New Policy - Vol. 16, No. 1 - February 2024

2230.07 - REQUIRED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

In all public, private, parochial, and denominational schools located within West Virginia, there shall be given prior to the completion of the eighth grade at least one (1) year of instruction in the history of the State of West Virginia.

The schools shall require regular courses of instruction by the completion of the 12th grade in the history of the United States, in civics, in the Constitution of the United States, and in the government of the State of West Virginia for the purpose of teaching, fostering, and perpetuating the ideals, principles, and spirit of political and economic democracy in America, and increasing the knowledge of the organization and machinery of the government of the United States and of the State of West Virginia. The required courses shall include instruction on the institutions and structure of American government, such as the separation of powers, the Electoral College, and federalism. The required courses shall include instruction that provides students an understanding of American political philosophy and history, utilizing writings from prominent figures in Western civilization, such as Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Thomas Jefferson. The courses of instruction shall offer an objective and critical analysis of ideologies throughout history including, but not limited to, capitalism, republicanism, democracy, socialism, communism, and fascism.

The WV Board of Education shall cause to be taught in all public schools of WV the subject of health education, including instruction in any of the grades six through 12 as considered appropriate by the County, on:

- A. The prevention, transmission, and spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- B. substance abuse, including the nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics, tobacco products, and other potentially harmful drugs, with special instruction as to their effect upon the human system and upon society in general;
- C. the importance of healthy eating and physical activity in maintaining healthy weight; and
- D. education concerning cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, including instruction in the care for conscious choking, and recognition of symptoms of drug or alcohol overdose.

A full week of classes during the week selected by the Board shall be recognized as Celebrate Freedom Week. The purpose of Celebrate Freedom Week is to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded. Celebrate Freedom Week shall include appropriate instruction in each social studies class which:

- A. Includes an in-depth study of the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Constitution of the United States with an emphasis on the amendments that are crucial to the survival of democracy and freedom, such as the Bill of Rights and the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and nineteenth amendments;
- B. Uses the historical, political, and social environments surrounding each document at the time of its initial passage or ratification; and
- C. includes the study of historical documents to firmly establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights by the founding fathers for the purposes of safeguarding our constitutional republic.

These requirements are applicable to all public, private, parochial, and denominational schools located within WV.

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Legal WV Code 18-2-9

Cross References po2230.06 - CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION INSTRUCTION
 po2413 - AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM
 po2414 - DRUG PREVENTION AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION EDUCATION PROGRAM
 po8510 - WELLNESS