

Series 2006-2007
Circular Letter: C-2

To: Superintendents of Schools

From: George A. Coleman, Interim Commissioner of Education

Date: August 17, 2006

Subject: U.S. Constitution Day and Youth and Democracy Month

The Constitution of the United States of America, signed on September 17, 1787, represents the most important written document for promoting democratic government in the world today. **A provision enacted by Congress in 2004, requires that all U.S. education facilities receiving federal funds must offer an educational program based on the U.S. Constitution on September 17. Since September 17 falls on a Sunday, the day will be celebrated nationwide on Monday, September 18, 2006.** Information on the federal requirement and resources can be found at <http://www.cclce.org>.

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, has proclaimed September 18, 2006, as the designated day for schools to offer Constitution Day education programs and September 2006 as Youth and Democracy Month. Democracy Works, the Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education serve as partners in developing and distributing appropriate resources for Connecticut schools. The enclosed packet is designed to facilitate appropriate educational activities.

In 2001, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted a high school graduation requirement of one-half credit in civics, beginning with the class of 2004. The *Connecticut Social Studies Framework* serves as a guide to implement the graduation requirement for civics education in Grades PreK-12. In this framework, the civics content standards form the basis for curriculum development and can be found on the Connecticut State Department of Education's website at <http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currkey3.htm>.

Constitution Day and Youth and Democracy Month have been designated as a kickoff time for educational institutions to focus on the activities and programs related to the Constitution and civic learning. It is understood that principles and practices embedded in our democratic way of life should be carried out in the school curriculum PreK-12 throughout the year.

The Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education has distributed information on educational activities to all schools as part of a statewide effort to provide a common activity for Constitution Day and Youth and Democracy Month. For additional information and resources to celebrate Constitution Day and Youth and Democracy Month, go to the Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship at <http://www.cclce.org> and Democracy Works at <http://www.democracyworksct.org>. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Gregg, by phone at 860-713-6744 or by e-mail at dan.gregg@ct.gov.

GAC:dg
Enclosure