ALL PRINCIPALS/APs/TEACHERS: American Founders’ Month and Celebrate Freedom Week 2019

Category: Required Action

Audience: All Principals/APs, All Teachers
Due Date: n/a
Meeting Date: n/a

To announce Florida’s Department of Education’s observance of American Founders’ Month and Celebrate Freedom Week during September 2019.

- Florida’s Department of Education is pleased to announce the observance of American Founders’ Month and Celebrate Freedom Week during September 2019. Section (s.) 683.1455, Florida Statues (F.S.), designates the month of September as American Founders’ Month and s. 1003.421, F.S., recognizes the last full week of classes in September in Florida public schools as Celebrate Freedom Week.
- During American Founders’ Month public educational institutions are urged to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate programs, meetings, services or celebrations in which state, county and local governmental officials are invited to participate. Public schools are encouraged to coordinate instruction at all grade levels related to the nation’s founding fathers.
- In addition, Celebrate Freedom Week must include at least three hours of appropriate instruction in each social studies class, as determined by each school district. This instruction shall include an in-depth study of the intent, meaning and importance of the Declaration of Independence. In accordance with s. 1003.421, F.S., to emphasize the importance of Celebrate Freedom Week, at the beginning of each school day, or in homeroom, during the last full week of September, all public school principals and teachers shall conduct an oral recitation by students of the following words of the Declaration of Independence:
  - “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
  - Upon written request by a student's parent, the student must be excused from the recitation of the Declaration of Independence.
- In order to meet the state’s proclamation and requirements, The Division of Academics, Department of Social Sciences has compiled instructional resource guides and PowerPoint presentations to assist teachers in providing instruction during the month of September 2019. Please refer to Weekly Briefing (WB) # 26195 for complete details and instruction on accessing any of the curricular mandates for the month of September.
- Principals, assistant principals, and school-site curriculum leaders are highly encouraged to inform teachers of the availability of these resources.
- For information about contests for American Founders' Month, please see WB #26201.
- If you have any questions regarding any of the above commemorations, please contact Mr.
Robert Brazofsky, Executive Director, Department of Social Sciences, at the number listed below, or by e-mail at rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net.

**Contact:** Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky, Executive Director (305-995-1982)

**Department:** Department of Social Sciences