

ALL PRINCIPALS/AP'S/TEACHERS: Social Studies - Celebrate Freedom Week, September 21-25, 2009

Category: For Your Information

Audience: All Principals/APs, All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK Packet September 09.pdf](#)

The Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills developed the attached lessons and resources to assist elementary and secondary teachers in providing required instruction on the Declaration of Independence.

Florida Statute 1003.421 requires the following:

- The last full week of classes each September shall be recognized in public schools as Celebrate Freedom Week. Celebrate Freedom Week must include instruction on the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence.
- Per Florida Statute 1003.421, during the last full week of September, at the beginning of each school day or in homeroom, public school principals and teachers shall conduct an oral recitation by students of the following passage from 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.
- Each school year, The Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills updates and adds new lessons to the attached resource guide to assist teachers in providing instruction on the Declaration of Independence. Detailed primary, intermediate, and secondary lesson plans with all readings and support materials needed to teach about the Declaration of Independence are provided in the guide. The lessons are also correlated to the appropriate Language Arts Benchmarks. Internet resources and a complete copy of the Declaration of Independence are also included in this resource guide.
- Please share this guide with the teachers in your school. Please also free to duplicate copies of the resource, as needed.
- If you have any questions regarding Celebrate Freedom Week, please contact Mr. John R. Doyle, Administrative Director, Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills, at the number listed below.

Contact: John R. Doyle (305-995-1982)

Department: Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills