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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 31, 2020  
**TO:** School District Superintendents  
**FROM:** Jacob Oliva  
**SUBJECT:** Civic Literacy Exam Pilot – Spring 2020 Guidance

**Contact Information:**

Michael DiPierro  
850-245-9773  
[Michael.DiPierro@fldoe.org](mailto:Michael.DiPierro@fldoe.org)  
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Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, states that Florida's education system should ensure that “students are prepared to become civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive contributions to their communities.” Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 19-32, requiring Commissioner Corcoran to “identify opportunities to equip high school graduates with sufficient knowledge of America's civics, particularly the principles reflected in the United States Constitution, so as to be capable of discharging the responsibilities associated with American citizenship.”

On December 10, 2019, Governor DeSantis directed Commissioner Corcoran to implement a new civic literacy requirement for high school students. **This will begin on a voluntary basis with a pilot civic literacy exam in Spring 2020.** The department encourages, at a minimum, participation by seniors enrolled in the courses listed below; however, the opportunity to take the assessment is available to any student in grades 9-12. Pilot exam results will not affect graduation requirements or school accountability. The department will report on which districts and schools participate in the pilot, and on student participation and pass rates.

In 2017, a college-level civic literacy requirement was put into state law. The pilot civic literacy exam for high school students will be the same exam used at the college level – the *Florida Civic Literacy Test*. This is a 100-question, multiple-choice exam that is Pass/Fail (60% correct to pass). A State Board of Education rule will be developed proposing that colleges be required to accept passing scores earned by high school students to meet the college-level civic literacy requirement. The proposed rule will retroactively include students participating in the pilot exam during the 2019-2020 school year, which is another good incentive for high schools to participate.

Students currently enrolled in the following courses, which represent most high school seniors, are particularly encouraged to participate in the pilot.

United States Government

- 2106310 United States Government
- 2106320 United States Government Honors
- 2106420 Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics

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#### Economics

- 2102310 Economics
- 2102320 Economics Honors
- 2102360 Advanced Placement Microeconomics
- 2102370 Advanced Placement Macroeconomics
- 2102335 Economics with Financial Literacy
- 2102345 Economics with Financial Literacy Honors

The department will provide districts with the 100-question exam and an answer key via ShareFile. Districts will administer the test in a process similar to other local assessments and may choose to deliver the test to students on paper, electronically, or a mix of methods. The test duration is 100 minutes. Districts may choose to administer the test in two sessions; however, all students should be tested on the same number of items at the same time to help mitigate test security concerns. The test may be scheduled at any time before the end of the school year and does not need to coincide with other statewide testing this spring. Additional details will be communicated to district assessment coordinators in the near future.

Districts participating in the spring 2020 pilot of the exam will report data for the students that complete the exam to the department. These results will be collected on a spreadsheet, submitted via ShareFile. The following information will be collected:

- District Number
- District Name
- School Number
- School Name
- Student Name
- FLEID
- Date of Birth
- Enrolled Grade
- Enrolled Course
- Raw Score (0–100)
- Passing Indication (Y/N)

Resources to help prepare students to succeed on the civic literacy exam are forthcoming on a new Civic Literacy webpage.

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Attachments