

We the pupils: More states teach founding US documents

By MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

NORTH SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Should U.S. high school students know at least as much about the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Federalist papers as immigrants passing an American citizenship test?

In a growing number of school systems, having such a basic knowledge is now a graduation requirement. But states are taking different approaches to combating what's seen as a widespread lack of knowledge about how government works.

Kentucky last week and Arkansas on March 16 became the latest of more than a dozen states since 2015 that have required the high school social studies curriculum to include material covered by the 100 questions asked on the naturalization exam. Lawmakers in other states, including Minnesota, are hoping to foster even deeper understanding of the fundamentals of American democracy by adding a full course to study its most important documents.

"Rights might be inherent, but ideas need to be taught," said Maida Buckley, a retired classroom teacher in Fairbanks, Alaska, who testified last year to an Alaskan legislative task force on civics education. "When you have a system of government that's based on ideas, espoused in the Declaration of Independence and carried out with a working document in the Constitution, those ideas need to be taught."

It's a bipartisan cause, and in many states such bills are jointly introduced by Republicans and Democrats. But proponents' motivations vary from dismay about



AP Photo/Steven Senne

High school students Jackson Laferriere, left, and Noah Lemoine fill out work sheets as teacher Natalie O'Brien, top center, speaks with students during a civics class called "We the People," at North Smithfield High School in North Smithfield, R.I. More states are requiring graduating high school students to know at least as much about the U.S. founding documents as immigrants passing a citizenship test.

the lack of participation in local school boards and town halls to concerns about how Republican President Donald Trump and his supporters view the power of the executive branch.

"We clearly have seen there is a serious civics deficiency in this country, all the way up to the top, the very top," said Rhode Island Democratic state Rep. Gregg Amore, a longtime high school history teacher who is co-sponsoring legislation that contends the "survival of the republic" depends on Americans understanding its principles and history.

A campaign by the Scottsdale, Arizona-based Joe Foss Institute has led many states to pass laws requiring students to know what's on the citizenship test.

"It's not a panacea or silver bullet, but it's a step forward," said the

group's Lucian Spataro, who said 17 states have adopted the model or something similar. "You have to learn the basics before you can have the higher-level discussions."

Other civics education boosters say such a mandate is too simplistic.

"If you do something like that, people are going to start teaching to the test and teaching a game of Trivial Pursuit," said Charles Quigley, executive director of the Calabasas, California-based Center for Civic Education. "Kids are already tested to death."

The Rhode Island bill, introduced by a Republican from North Smithfield, a conservative town where Trump is popular, is partly inspired by a ninth-grade class taught at North Smithfield High School. The honors class uses the "We the People" curriculum developed by Quig-

ley's group. Students participate in a national competition in which they must orally defend their ideas.

On a March afternoon, teenagers stood at their classroom's lectern one by one, debating whether a California police officer can search a suspected gang member's smartphone without a warrant.

As they argued, some cited language from the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment. Others looked to Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis' 1928 dissenting opinion in a wiretapping case.

Their teacher, Natalie O'Brien, gently prodded them to think critically and tap into more than 200 years of American history and legal philosophy. She didn't tell them that, in 2014, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled in the California case that police may not generally search the cellphones of people they arrest without first getting search warrants.

"Someone's going to channel James Madison, right?" she said. "What would Brandeis be saying about this particular decision? What would the founders be saying?"

North Smithfield High student Megan Skinner said she didn't pay much attention to politics before O'Brien's class, but the 15-year-old now said she now uses the founding U.S. documents as a guide as family and friends debate the Trump presidency.

"It gives us an entirely new perspective on all the events that are going on," Skinner said. "You see all these things in the news, and especially about the election, and all the things that are going on with the executive orders he passed, the travel bans. Before this class, we wouldn't have understood these things."

CAN YOU PASS THE US CITIZENSHIP TEST?

Associated Press

In a growing number of states, high school graduates are being required to know at least as much about U.S. founding documents as immigrants passing the citizenship test. Can you ace it?

An applicant must correctly answer six of 10 questions, selected from 100 possible questions, to pass the civics portion. A sample test, with the answers at the bottom:

QUESTIONS

1. What does the Constitution do?
2. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
3. What is an amendment?
4. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?
5. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
6. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
7. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
8. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the Constitution. Name one of the writers.
9. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
10. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

ANSWERS

1. Sets up the government, defines the government and protects basic rights of Americans
2. We the People
3. A change or an addition to the Constitution
4. The Bill of Rights
5. 27
6. Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness
7. To print money, to declare war, to create an army or to make treaties
8. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay (under the collective pseudonym Publius)
9. Citizens 18 and older can vote; you don't have to pay to vote; any citizen can vote, a male citizen of any race can vote
10. Speech, religion, assembly, press, petition the government

SOURCE: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Cormorants: Corps reported killing 2,982 adult birds in 2016

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birds and oiled eggs — a process that prevents the eggs from hatching — in 5,089 nests. In 2016, the Corps reported a total of 2,982 adult birds killed.

Cormorant populations

So far there haven't been any changes in populations elsewhere that state biologists can directly attribute to management activities on East Sand Island. Drawing a straight line from the Columbia River estuary to changing cormorant populations farther down the coast is difficult to do anyway.

"If we do see increases at the Oregon Coast colonies, we would be curious to know how this might be related to activities on the Columbia River," said state biologist and avian predation coordinator James Lawonn. But, he added, "cormorant colonies naturally fluctuate quite a bit."

The Department of Fish and Wildlife already monitors double-crested cormorant populations on the coast extensively. In addition to regular nonlethal hazing activities, when some monitoring can occur, there are regular aerial surveys and estuary surveys. On these excursions, biologists focus on a variety of bird species but also take note of the double-crested cormorants.

The state has not increased any of its monitoring activities in response to the Corps' lethal management plan on East Sand Island. This is mostly because the Department of Fish and Wildlife's own monitoring efforts along the coast and in the estuaries are already "pretty robust," Lawonn said. "We feel that we've got our bases covered."

Nonlethal hazing

Oregon plans to begin its nonlethal hazing activities in May, focusing on



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Cormorants rest below the Astoria Bridge last year.

the Nehalem, Nestucca and Coquille river estuaries and Tillamook and Alsea bays

before moving up to the Lower Columbia River area. The cormorants are native

to Oregon and are particularly prevalent on the state's estuaries from April through

October, according to a news release from the Department of Fish and Wildlife — overlapping with when wild-spawned and hatchery salmon juveniles are migrating from their origin streams to the ocean.

The hazing activities by the state are an effort to protect, in particular, spring migrants that are considered threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Though some small pyrotechnics might be used, most often the state's hazing techniques take the form of people driving around in boats, chasing cormorants away from areas where vulnerable — and valuable — juvenile salmon are concentrated.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has coordinated this cormorant hazing project for the last eight years, and such nonlethal hazing in one form or another has occurred at some Oregon estuaries since the late 1980s.

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING													APRIL 3	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Quantico "MKTOPAZ" (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Quantico "MKTOPAZ" (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Voice "Knockouts Premiere" The knockout rounds begin. (N)				Taken "Hail Mary" (N)		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show	
6	KOIN	(6) NCAA Basketball Division I Championship Site: University of Phoenix Stadium -- Glendale, Ariz. (L)				Big Bang Theory Extra	Ent. Tonight	To Be Announced				KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) Colbert	
7	KIRO	(7) NCAA Basketball Division I Championship Site: University of Phoenix Stadium -- Glendale, Ariz. (L)				Post Game Show	KIRO 7 News	The Insider				KIRO News	(35) Colbert	
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at 7	Inside Edition	The Voice "Knockouts Premiere" The knockout rounds begin. (N)				Taken "Hail Mary" (N)		KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show	
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Supergirl "Mr. and Mrs. Mxyzptik"	Penn & Teller: Fool Us			KGW News at 10	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother	
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Antique "Salt Lake City (Hour One)" (N)	Oregon Experience "Jewish Frontier"			Independent Lens "Newtown" (N)		POV		
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	24: Legacy "9:00 PM - 10:00 PM" (N)	APB "Last Train to Europa" (N)			10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls	
13	KPDJ	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV			Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	Cleveland Show	
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	24: Legacy "9:00 PM - 10:00 PM" (N)	APB "Last Train to Europa" (N)			Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	The Simpsons	
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy			American Dad	American Dad	Conan		
22	KZJN	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family			Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends	
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) MLB Baseball Cle./Tex. (L)		SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports.	SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports.			SportsCenter		SportsCenter		
30	ESPN2	(30) SportsCenter		MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Oakland Athletics Site: Oakland Alameda Coliseum -- Oakland, Calif. (L)		Baseball Tonight (L)				Baseball Tonight (L)		MLB Baseball Atlanta vs N.Y. Mets		
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Hunter Street (N)	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	Game Shakers	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	Good Luck Charlie	Stuck in the Middle	Good Luck Charlie	Liv and Maddie	Liv and Maddie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie	
34	FAM	(34) *** The Switch (2010, Comedy/Drama)	Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman.	YoungHungry (N)	Baby Daddy (N)	The Twins "We're in It to Twin It!" (N)	(05) YoungHungry	Baby Daddy		The 700 Club				
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) *** The Wolf of Wall Street (2013, Drama)	Jonah Hill, Kyle Chandler, Leonardo DiCaprio.	YoungHungry (N)	Baby Daddy (N)	The Twins "We're in It to Twin It!" (N)	(40) FXM Presents	*** The Wolf of Wall Street (2013, Drama)	Jonah Hill, Kyle Chandler, Leonardo DiCaprio.					
36	LIFE	(36) I Don't Know How She Does It ('11)	Pierce Brosnan, Sarah Jessica Parker.	*** What Happens in Vegas ('08)	Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Cameron Diaz.	*** Rumor Has It (2005, Comedy)	Jennifer Aniston, Mark Ruffalo, Kevin Costner.							
38	ROOT	(38) (5:00) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros (L)		Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park -- Houston, Texas					Post-game				
39	FST	(39) (5:00) NHRA Drag Racing DENSO Spark Plugs Nationals		MLB Whiparound (L)		Speak for Yourself				Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.				
43	SP1K	(43) Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	
44	COI	(44) Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	The Daily Show (N)	@midnight (N)	
45	HIST	(45) American Pickers "Coin-Op Kings"	Amer. Pickers "A Few Good Junk Men"	American Pickers "A Colonel of Truth"		Pickers "Hidden in Plane Sight" (N)				(05) Pawn Stars	(35) Pawn Stars	(05) Pawn Stars	(35) Pawn Stars	
46	A&E	(46) First 48 "Last Stop: Paradise/ Bad Blood"	First 48 "Soldier Down/ Blood Sheddetta"	First 48 "Memphis Blues/ Widow Maker"		Cold Case Files (N)				Bates Motel "Inseparable" (N)		(05) The First 48		
47	TL	(47) Say Yes to the Dress "The Shay Way"	To Be Announced	To Be Announced		To Be Announced				To Be Announced		To Be Announced		
48	DISC	(48) Street Outlaws "Last Car Standing"	Street Outlaws "Interstate Showdown"	Street Outlaws "Full Throttle (N)"	Street Outlaws (N)	Street Outlaws (N)				Diesel Brothers (N)		Street Outlaws		
49	NGEO	(49) OriginsHumankind "Cheating Death"	OriginsHumankind "Power of Money"	OriginHuman "The Writing on the Wall"	OriginHuman "Progress of War" (N)	National Geographic "S10 Eps"				OriginsHumankind "Progress of War"				
50	TNT	(50) (5:30) *** Eagle Eye ('08)	Billy Bob Thornton, Michelle Monaghan, Shia LaBeouf.	*** The Bourne Identity (2002, Action)	Franka Potente, Brian Cox, Matt Damon.	*** The Bourne Identity ('02)	Matt Damon.			*** The Bourne Identity ('02)	Matt Damon.			
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) Breaking Bad	(35) Breaking Bad "Box Cutter"	(40) Breaking Bad "Shotgun"	(45) Breaking Bad "Cornered"	(50) Breaking Bad "Salud"				(50) Breaking Bad "Crawl Space"				
52	USA	(52) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw						(05) WWE Hall of Fame (N)		
53	FOOD	(53) Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	
54	HGTV	(54) Love It/ List It "Too Close for Comfort"	Love It or List It "Functioning for Four"	Love It/ List It "Not Enough Bedrooms"	Love It or List It "Master Mistakes"	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters	
55	FX	(55) (5:30) *** Guardians of the Galaxy ('14)	Zoe Saldana, Lee Pace, Chris Pratt.	*** Real Steel (2011, Sci-Fi)	Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo, Hugh Jackman.	*** Real Steel (2011, Sci-Fi)	Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo, Hugh Jackman.					Real Steel (2011, Sci-Fi)	Hugh Jackman.	
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360				Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		
58	CNC	(58) Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight				Hannity		The First 100 Days		
61	FNC	(61) Shark Tank		American Greed "Billionaire Boys Bust"		American Greed "The Bad Neighbors"				American Greed "The Surfer Slayer?"		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63	BRVA	(63) Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Southern Charm (SP) (N)				Sweet Home OK		WatchWhat (N)	VanderpumpR 1/3	
64	TCM	(64) (15) *** Bonnie and Clyde ('67)	Faye Dunaway, Estelle Parsons, Warren Beatty.	(15) TCM Classic Film Festival "Faye Dunaway"		*** Network (1976, Drama)	Faye Dunaway, Peter Finch, Ned Beatty.					Movie		
65	SYFY	(65) *** The Matrix Revolutions (2003, Sci-Fi)	Laurence Fishburne, Jada Pinkett Smith, Keanu Reeves.	*** What Lies Beneath (2000, Thriller)	Harrison Ford, James Remar, Michelle Pfeiffer.									
162	RFD	(162) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live" "Merial Eprinx"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase		