

A NEW LAW

Senate Bill 60
Utah Code Section 53A-13-109.5
American Civics Education Initiative

This bill was passed in the 2015 Utah legislative session. The law requires an individual to pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma or adult education secondary diploma.

Details

- Test must include any 50 of the 100 questions used on the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test (*Civics Questions for the Naturalization Test*, www.uscis.gov).
- Students must answer at least 35 questions correctly to “pass.”
- Students may take the test as many times as needed.
- This law applies to all students who graduate on or after January 1, 2016.
- Other details of implementation of the law are left up to individual school districts.

TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PLAN

In order to fulfill the new graduation requirement, an online test has been created by Tooele School District which consists of **50 multiple choice questions** taken from the *Civics Questions for the Naturalization Test*.

The first administration of this test to all 2016 graduating seniors will occur November 3 – 6, depending on the school’s determined test schedule. Schools and teachers will also determine testing schedules to allow for make-up testing and re-takes for students not passing on their first attempt during a November 9 – 20 window.

Teachers will have access to the questions and a study guide has been provided to schools for their students. There is no secrecy about the questions or their answers. We will make every reasonable effort to make the administration of the test as efficient as possible and ensure that all students have the opportunity to pass this test.

After Nov 20th, the district will evaluate additional re-take testing and scheduling needs to determine next steps for helping all 2016 seniors successfully fulfill this graduation requirement. In addition, we will also address a long term plan for administration of the test to 8th – 12th grade and adult education students.

Students and parents will not likely be aware of this new law and should be provided relevant information regarding this requirement and the testing schedules at their respective school. The tone and spirit of the information shared should be **helpful, positive, and encouraging**.

Additional information on the *American Civics Education Initiative*, including Frequently Asked Questions and sample tests can be found at: <http://www.uen.org/american-civics-education/>