

SECTION 59-29-120. Study of United States Constitution requisite for graduation; attendance at veteran's activities. [SC ST SEC 59-29-120]

(A) All high schools, colleges, and universities in this State that are sustained or in any manner supported by public funds shall give instruction in the essentials of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist Papers, including the study of and devotion to American institutions and ideals, and no student in any such school, college, or university may receive a certificate of graduation without previously passing a satisfactory examination upon the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist Papers, and, if a citizen of the United States, satisfying the examining power of his loyalty thereto.

(B) On November eleventh of each year which is a legal holiday in this State as provided by Section 53-5-10 to commemorate and honor veterans, all elementary, middle, and high schools in this State if they are open, shall devote at least one hour of the school day in either classroom instruction or at a student body assembly program to study the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. If any such school is not open on November eleventh, this instruction or assembly program must be given on the day the school is open immediately preceding November eleventh.

(C) On November eleventh of each year, schools may permit students to attend activities to commemorate and honor veterans that are held at locations within their respective counties. The parent of a student seeking to be excused pursuant to this subsection shall provide prior written consent to the appropriate school personnel. Attendance at such activities shall count as a part of the instructional day for purposes of Section 59-1-440.

HISTORY: 1962 Code § 21-420; 1952 Code § 21-420; 1942 Code § 5324; 1932 Code § 5342; 1924 (33) 1186; 1990 Act No. 318, § 1; 1998 Act No. 322, § 1.

SECTION 59-29-130. Duration of instruction in essentials of United States Constitution. [SC ST SEC 59-29-130]

The instruction provided for in § 59-29-120 shall be given for at least one year of the high school, college and university grades, respectively.

HISTORY: 1962 Code § 21-421; 1952 Code § 21-421; 1942 Code § 5324; 1932 Code § 5342; 1924 (33) 1186.

SECTION 59-29-140. Enforcement of program of study of United States Constitution by State Superintendent. [SC ST SEC 59-29-140]

The State Superintendent of Education shall make due arrangements for carrying out the provisions of §§ 59-29-120 and 59-29-130. For such purpose the State Superintendent shall prescribe suitable texts adapted to the needs of the high schools, universities and colleges for

the instruction required under §§ 59-29-120 and 59-29-130.

HISTORY: 1962 Code § 21-422; 1952 Code § 21-422; 1942 Code § 5324; 1932 Code § 5342; 1924 (33) 1186.

SECTION 59-29-150. Failure to comply with requirements for program of study of United States Constitution as cause for dismissal. [SC ST SEC 59-29-150]

Willful neglect or failure on the part of any public school superintendent, principal or teacher or the president, teacher or other officer of any high school, normal school, university or college to observe and carry out the requirements of §§ 59-29-120 to 59-29-140 shall be sufficient cause for the dismissal or removal of such person from his position.

HISTORY: 1962 Code § 21-423; 1952 Code § 21-423; 1942 Code § 5324; 1932 Code § 5342; 1924 (33) 1186.