



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent *DDC*
Division of Educator, School, and Student Supports

SUBJECT: Constitution Day Observance and the 20th Anniversary
Observance of 9/11

Federal law requires all educational institutions receiving federal funds to hold an educational program on the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 2021 for the students served by that educational institution, and certify that the program was presented.

For students, pursuing an education is more than books and grades—it also involves learning how to fully participate in the life of our nation. There are some important annual academic events that reflect upon our nation’s historic founding and the inalienable rights of its citizens. This memo provides a reminder to local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), about the annual observation of Constitution Day and the 20-year remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

Constitution Day

Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17. It was on that day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the U. S. Constitution in Philadelphia. Although Independence Day and Presidents’ Day were marked as holidays for many years, it was not until 1940 that the seeds of a Constitution Day were planted.

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Friday, **September 17, 2021**, will mark our country's annual observation. The purpose of Constitution Day is to commemorate the creation and signing of the supreme law of the land—the U. S. Constitution, and to honor and celebrate the privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship for both native-born and naturalized citizens. Educators are encouraged to visit the Michigan Center for Civics Education website for additional information, including lesson ideas: [Constitution Day | Michigan Center For Civic Education \(miciviced.org\)](https://miciviced.org).

MDE will provide local school districts with further information on how to document and submit certifications in *NexSys* on district participation in Constitution Day 2021.

Questions may be directed to Ruth Anne Hodges at HodgesR3@michigan.gov, or Dr. Corinne Edwards at EdwardsC7@michigan.gov.

20-year remembrance of the events of 9/11

This year marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) continues to collaborate with school districts and a wide range of partners and stakeholders to support students and their achievement. Families and communities are essential partners of teachers, support staff, and administrators in the education of students.

The 9/11 poster exhibition, [*September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World*](#), will have a significant and lasting impact on students and community members, to help individuals understand the importance of bearing witness to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Lakeview High School Library (Lakeview School District, Battle Creek) has been selected to receive one of the limited hard copy sets of the poster exhibition available from the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. Students, their families, and educators are invited to explore the website above for additional information.

Additionally, educators can access and learn more about instructional resources to commemorate this historical event, including related modules and activities, by visiting the [9/11 Primer | National September 11 Memorial & Museum \(911memorial.org\)](https://911memorial.org).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors