

Social Studies PLC eBlast

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Hello Everyone!

Act 35 Update

The 2023-24 Act 35 reporting window opened in the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP) on July 8, 2024; the deadline for reporting is Friday October 4, 2024. Act 35 requirements began in the 2020-21 school year and requires each district, charter school, and comprehensive CTC to administer a locally developed assessment of United States history, government, and civics. The assessment must be administered at least once to students in grades 7-12 and must include the nature, purpose, principles, and structure of United States constitutional democracy, the principles, operations and documents of United States government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The data to be collected in the FRCPP system includes:

- Type of the assessment administered
- Total number of students who took the assessment
- Total number of students who attained a passing grade on the assessment
- Grade level or levels in which the assessment was administered
- Course or course in which the assessment was administered
- Number of students scoring 100% on the assessment

As you gather this information in preparation for the upcoming collection, you can find more information on Act 35, including guidelines for accessing and submitting your data in the [User Guide](#). You may also find the "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" document useful as well.

Note that if your charter school does not encompass grades 7-12, you are exempt from this submission. However, if your school includes at least one grade level 7-12, this legislation applies to your LEA. Submission is also required for IUs that provide civics instruction on behalf of their LEAs, as well as comprehensive CTC schools.

After entering your data, if you are experiencing issues where you are unable to submit, please check that you have the proper "submit" role in the ADMIN area of FRCPP. If the Act 35 Civic Knowledge survey isn't appearing when you log in, you are not a registered user and you must be added by your local admin user. The [FRCPP information page](#) may assist as you encounter submission issues.

Act 25 of 2024

On June 17, 2024 Governor Shapiro signed into law [Act 25 of 2024](#), amending the Public School Code of 1949 – requiring school entities to observe a moment of silence on the September 11, 2001 anniversary. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is working on supporting schools to implement Act 25 and will provide appropriate curriculum resources and other materials to be posted in the SAS portal in the coming months.

From the 9/11 Memorial: ANNIVERSARY DIGITAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Free commemorative program that includes a 30-minute film, available on demand, highlighting first-person accounts of the attacks and their aftermath, and a live chat with Museum staff throughout the day.

[9/11 Memorial and Museum](#)

The film will be available beginning Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

ONSITE FIELD TRIPS

Inquiry-based, 60-minute tours of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum led by skilled educators help students explore artifacts inside the Museum to reveal the stories they tell.

[9/11 Memorial and Museum Field Trips](#)

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

Age-appropriate tours of the 9/11 Memorial Museum offered via Zoom. These interactive tours are tailored for groups of students grades 3 - 5 and 6 - 12. They are led by Education staff and offer time for students to ask questions throughout.

[9/11 Memorial and Museum Virtual Field Trips](#)

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops and sessions address the challenges of teaching difficult content and explore interdisciplinary connections to your curriculum through Museum tours, hands-on activities, and group discussion.

[9/11 Memorial and Museum Teacher PD](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

A diverse slate of free offerings that help learners and educators understand the events of 9/11, the antecedents of the attacks, and their ongoing repercussions. Includes the 9/11 Primer, comprised of primary sources, first-person video stories, content-rich video recordings, lesson plans, interactive timelines, and object highlights divided by grade-level for use in the classroom. These modules can be used in preparation for a virtual visit to the Museum or as a guide for in-classroom teaching. Recommended grade levels for each resource are provided.

[9/11 Memorial and Museum Online Resources](#)

NOTE: Sites identified here have been reviewed by the content advisor; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms.

From the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial

Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is pleased to announce we are once again partnering with the National Park Service for a virtual National Day of Learning "Teach to Remember" and the National Writing Project for "Write to Remember" on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. [Reserve your place now.](#)

The Governor's Civic Engagement Award

[The Governor's Civic Engagement Award](#) is presented by the Pennsylvania Departments of State and Education. The award celebrates the efforts of Pennsylvania high school students to educate, engage and inform their fellow students about how to get involved in the voting process.

From the National Constitution Center

Constitution Day September 7

The National Constitution Center's annual Constitution Day celebration is the biggest Constitution Day celebration in the country—and a great way to kick off the academic year! In September 1787, the Founders signed the most influential document in American history, the U.S. Constitution. Commemorate this historic day [online or at the museum!](#)

New Resource for Geography Teachers

The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) has launched [GeoCircles](#), a free, monthly virtual PD opportunity for geography educators.

A GeoCircle is not your typical webinar. It's an informal, organic discussion facilitated by geography educators, for geography educators. Each session focuses on participant-driven conversations where you can share your insights, seek advice, and discuss the latest trends in geography education without the constraints of formal presentations.

From the Committee of Seventy

Sign up for free sets of Presidential STAR Cards

Next week is Week 1 of C70's [Presidential STAR Cards](#) project, where classrooms across PA get a set of discussion questions that invite students to learn about the presidency and engage with the upcoming election.

[Sign up here](#) to receive the Presidential STAR Cards for your classroom this fall. This program is free for all teachers.

Each week, we'll send four virtual cards to your email to spur discussion. Cards come in three categories: building civic knowledge, promoting engagement, and practicing deliberation. You can use them for morning meetings, one-on-one discussions, or as written prompts. They are designed for [elementary](#) and middle school students, but as you can see, [high schoolers](#) and [adults](#) can answer them too.

C70 also has cards available in Spanish and Simplified Chinese, available upon request. Lastly, if you would like to pair STAR Cards with other lessons, C70 has other lessons for both [K-8 classrooms](#) and [high schools](#).

Further, C70 sponsors the [PA Youth Mock Election](#), which gives students hands-on practice casting votes for real candidates who appear on their ballot. C70 provides instructions for how classrooms can participate, plus access to C70's nonpartisan Interactive Voter Guide for students to research their choices. The Committee invites middle and high school teachers to [sign up](#) before October 22nd (two weeks before the Nov. 5th election).

Please reach out to Justin Villere (jvillere@seventy.org) to learn more about either of these programs.

iCivics launches updated website

For more than a decade, [iCivics](#) has been a trusted provider for free, nonpartisan civic education resources. As they have grown into leading a nationwide movement to prioritize civic education, their new look and feel are intended to more accurately depict all the ways their work supports you and your students.

- The new [Resource Dashboard](#) allows you to effortlessly search through materials by grade and resource type. New and featured products are also easier to find now!
- The new [Resource Guides](#) offer planning and integration tools and teaching ideas to inspire knowledge, curiosity, and civic engagement in your students.
- The [new student homepage](#) is designed specifically for your learners and is packed with fun games, videos, and engaging activities to make learning enjoyable.

For tips, [check out the frequently asked questions](#)

NEW Election 2024 Misinformation Dashboard from the News Literacy Project

The News Literacy Project (NLP) recently debuted their [Misinformation Dashboard: Election 2024](#). This free online resource collects examples of viral rumors, doctored images, conspiracy theories and AI-generated fakes. Election misinformation poses an existential threat to democracy, and individual fact-checks are not adequate to counter this danger.

The dashboard goes above and beyond by doing the following:

- Highlighting of-the-moment data.
- Analyzing common trends and topics within a larger context
- Featuring dynamic visualizations that quickly illuminate information
- Providing educators with real-time examples for the classroom and enhancing the understanding of journalists and researchers diving into election misinformation

Everything on the dashboard is interactive. Click on the two options at the top of the dashboard to explore election misinformation by theme or type. You'll find examples of fabricated or manipulated content, false or misleading context and many forms of AI-generated deceptions. NLP is tracking the trends regarding election integrity, party platforms and the candidates themselves.

Mark Your Calendars for Media Literacy Week, October 21-25

Help the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) make the 10th Annual U.S. Media Literacy Week (October 21-25) the most impactful yet! Throughout the week, NAMLE unites educators, students, organizations, and community members to celebrate and promote media literacy.

Whether enhancing your curriculum, advocating in your community, or spreading awareness, there's a place for everyone. Together, we ensure media literacy is widely taught and highly valued as an essential life skill. Register as a participant now to access all NAMLE-hosted events, including the [Media Literacy Resource Showcase](#) and [Awards Ceremony](#).

Resources for High School Voter Registration Week, September 23-27

[The Civics Center](#) works to make voter registration part of every high school in America. The Civics Center launched [High School Voter Registration Week](#) in 2019, and this year it will be Sept. 23-27.

Depending on the state, even Sophomores and Juniors may be able to pre-register. If they can't vote this November, we can get them ready for the next one! We offer comprehensive support in setting up voter registration drives in schools during this High School Voter Registration Week and beyond. The Civics Center has put together a [toolkit](#) so you can help spread the word to high school students and teachers in your networks.

Back to School with PBS News Hour

PBS News Hour Classroom stayed busy this summer getting ready for an exciting year with new features that include:

- Election coverage, including a NEW season of [Student Reporting Labs' On Our Minds](#) podcast series, with this season focused on young people and the election!
- A NEW major expansion of [Journalism in Action](#) coming in the next month!
- Exciting new opportunities for teachers of ALL subject areas to train their students to [solve problems using invention!](#)
- As you put finishing touches on your fall plans, don't forget to check out their [Daily News Lessons](#) that touch on all subject areas, from civics to STEM and the arts.

The Civics Collection on PBS LearningMedia

[The Civics Collection](#) on PBS LearningMedia is designed to support students as they acquire civic knowledge, develop civic understanding through applied historical and present-day examples, and engage and participate in civic affairs.

The Collection covers six key organizing topics including the foundations of American constitutional democracy, the structure of our government, the Constitutional amendments and interpretations, citizens' rights and responsibilities, social and economic policy, as well as power and influence in the U.S. government. Each resource in the Collection is accompanied by teaching tips to guide teachers on how to best integrate the Collection into their curriculum, along with discussion questions that challenge students to reflect on the media.

In addition, independent student activities focus on civic knowledge and skills that include identifying and applying civic knowledge, building media literacy, engaging in civil discourse, analyzing civic engagement, understanding the lawmaking process, and assessing American democracy. Every single resource is grounded in one or more of this nation's founding documents.

Tips for Teaching the 2024 Election with KQED

Concerned about how to engage students in Election 2024 conversations in your classroom? Join KQED for their Sept. 17 workshop, [Teacher to Teacher: Tips for Teaching Election 2024](#), and hear from three classroom teachers in politically diverse communities on how they are empowering students to share their voice as part of the democratic process.

Writing in Social Studies from the OER Project

The new [Writing in Social Studies collection](#) brings together some of OER’s best resources on composition. Here are some highlights:

[The OER Project Writing Guide](#) This guide clearly explains how formal and informal writing exercises are used throughout the courses, describes how to build good writing routines, and discusses our recommended assessment rubrics.

[Get great writing ideas](#) Students can use our one-pager on informal writing to develop their own approach to note-taking, collaboration, and daily writing practice.

[Grab some prompts](#) Good writing often springs from an inspiring topic. Our library of writing prompts ranges from structural exercises to activities on revolution, globalization, and other rich topics.

From America250

America250 just wrapped up the first year of America’s Field Trip. The Field Trip is envisioned as a way for our nation’s students to see iconic American landmarks and historical sites up close to celebrate our nation’s Semi-quincentennial. That vision has now come to life.

75 first-place awardees from across the nation took part in 13 different field trips this summer, including places like Yellowstone National Park, the Federal Reserve and the Statue of Liberty, and American Village.

Do you know someone who would be interested in participating in this program next year? America’s Field Trip will return with new trip opportunities for the summer of 2025, with contest submissions opening next month. [Sign up to be the first to know when submissions are open!](#)

The contest is available to students from grades 3 through 12. As with the inaugural year of America’s Field Trip, participants will be asked to answer the question, “*What Does America Mean to You?*” Their heartfelt answers can be in the form of an essay or original artwork.

From the American Historical Association

Save the date for the [138th annual meeting](#) of the American Historical Association.

The meeting will convene from Friday to Monday, **January 3–6, 2025**, in New York, NY.

Housing opens September 16. Book your room in the AHA block first to receive **\$50 off your registration** when it opens September 23.

The 2024 Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide is now available

To help young Americans better understand the contributions of the nation's Veterans, VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to present the [2024 Veterans Day Teacher's Resource Guide](#) as a tool to assist educators in planning lessons and activities around Veterans Day. In addition to providing information on the sacrifices Veterans have made throughout the years, the guide will also help inspire ideas for projects and events that can be used thank Veterans. Feel free to reproduce and share the guide in your school and community.

As Veterans Day approaches, this guide will help your students connect with Veterans who served in the past, as well as service members now on active duty. Thank you for remembering and honoring Veterans on this important and special day.

For more information about Veterans Day, please visit the [Veterans Day](#) website.

From The Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America ("PVA").

Paralyzed Veterans of America – Keystone Chapter is pleased to announce the [2024 Veterans Day Poster and Poem Contest](#). The goal is to provide an opportunity for children to creatively express gratitude for our nation's heroes in their own imaginative way.

The theme for this year's contest is: "#AccessibilityForAll." Drawing from personal experiences with a Veteran, or from stories or lessons learned in school or through media, students should draw a poster or write a poem that relates to the theme and show or tell why today's world should be more accessible and safer for Veterans and others who use wheelchairs. Posters must include the visual/image of a wheelchair and poems must reference the importance of a wheelchair.

All entries for the Veterans Day Poster and Poem Contest must be received via email: Lynnette.nette@gmail.com or regular U.S. Mail to: Lynnette Ferry, 3506 Bird Drive, Erie, PA 16510, by Friday, October 18, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

Thank you for subscribing to the SAS Social Studies PLC and for all you do every day for the students in Pennsylvania!

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