

CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

Educational institutions that receive federal funding are required to hold an educational program about the United States Constitution on September 17th of each year, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. When September 17th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, a college may recognize Constitution Day during the preceding or following week.

The purpose of Constitution Day is to ensure that students in our country are gaining an increased knowledge and appreciation for this valuable and important document of freedom.

What ISAC Provides?

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) provides information concerning Constitution and Citizenship Day to students within the Students & Parents area at collegeillinois.org. As you build your own program, or website pages, take advantage of the information available on the Constitution Day Resources page for students (located at <http://www.collegeillinois.org/students/constitution-day-resources.html>).

Additional Constitution Day Resource material is available on these pages, including a link to a Spanish translation of the Constitution.

Congressional Initiative

[Federal Register: May 31, 2005 \(Volume 70, Number 103\) \(correction notice\)](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/fregisters/attachments/FR05312005.pdf)
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/fregisters/attachments/FR05312005.pdf>

This Congressional initiative is authorized by Section 111 of Division J of Pub. L. 108-447, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Dec. 8, 2004; 118 Stat. 2809, 3344-45 (Section 111).

For Additional Information

For more information concerning school requirements, contact Alex Stein at the U.S. Department of Education:

400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4W218
Washington, DC 20202-2110
202.205.9085
constitutionday@ed.gov

Informational Resources

Below are some additional resources relating to the U.S. Constitution that you may want to reference as you create a Constitution Day program. While the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) does not endorse any of these programs or websites, you may find them useful in assisting students in learning about the Constitution.

[The U.S. Constitution Online](http://usconstitution.net)

<http://usconstitution.net>

[U.S. National Archives and Records Administration](http://www.archives.gov/)

<http://www.archives.gov/>

The site includes links to a variety of resources such as:

- [Scanned copy of the U.S. Constitution](http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html)
<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>
- [Constitution Day Resources from the Bill of Rights Institute](http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/page.aspx?pid=593)
<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/page.aspx?pid=593>

Resources from About.com

[The Federalist Papers](http://usgoinfo.about.com/library/fed/blfedindex.htm) (written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay to explain the Constitution to the people of America, and to garner their support for it)
<http://usgoinfo.about.com/library/fed/blfedindex.htm>

Spanish Translation

[Constitución de los Estados Unidos de América](#) (Spanish translation that is part of the Political Database of the Americas site at Georgetown University)

National Constitution Center – [Interactive Constitution](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/)

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/>

Constitution Rights Foundation: [Foundations of our Constitution \(online lessons\)](http://www.crf-usa.org/Foundation_docs/Foundation_home.html)

http://www.crf-usa.org/Foundation_docs/Foundation_home.html

RESOURCE TOOLS FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS:

Constitution – Wordsearch Games (National Constitution Center)

Click on the following link, and then scroll to the bottom of the Study the Constitution page to find the "Games and Puzzles" section

http://constitutioncenter.org/ncc_edu_Studying_the_Constitution.aspx

[Lyrics to "Schoolhouse Rock" version of Preamble](http://www.schoolhouserock.tv/Preamble.html) – for a nostalgic glance at a popular 1970's piece that was, for the parents of many of today's college students, their first exposure to the U.S. Constitution.

<http://www.schoolhouserock.tv/Preamble.html>