



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

July 29, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: HB36: Implementation of a Program of Instruction in the High School Virginia and U.S. Government Course

This memorandum provides information to school divisions on the implementation of new legislative requirements that require *each local school board to implement a program of instruction in the high school Virginia and U.S. Government course on all information and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test*. [Superintendent's Memorandum Number 147-16](#), issued on June 23, 2016 includes a description of [HB 36](#) among a list of legislation approved by the 2016 General Assembly.

Since a program of instruction currently exists in the Virginia and United States Government (GOVT) course that exceeds all information and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services assessment (USCIS), school divisions are encouraged to incorporate the standards and curriculum framework into a broader, locally designed curriculum to ensure all civics concepts are covered.

According to the [Civics \(History and Government\) Questions for the Naturalization Test](#), there are 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the U.S. Naturalization Test. To support school divisions with the implementation of [HB 36](#), a crosswalk between the 2015 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* for GOVT and the USCIS (U.S. Naturalization Test) has been provided in Attachment A. Those questions related to the civics portion of the USCIS have been highlighted in gray.

For further information, please contact Christonya Brown, coordinator for history and social science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2893.

SRS/CB/vdg

Attachments:

- A. [Crosswalk between the 2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning and the U.S. Naturalization Test](#) (PDF)