

K-12 Required Yearly Observances/Instruction

Important Notes:

- ★ These are annual observances for all K-12 students and are not course-specific, so often school-wide celebrations serve as the best approach
 - Exception: Celebrate Freedom Week and Victims of Communism Day (45 minutes) of social studies classroom instruction
- ★ Pay attention to the observance description as to whether it is instruction-related or commemorative

Required Instruction/Observances	When Is It Required?	What Is It?	Suggested Resources
American Founders' Month	Entire September	Public schools are encouraged to coordinate instruction at all grade levels related to the nation's founding fathers, inviting government officials to participate.	 September_ Social Stu...
Labor Day	First Mon in Sept	Dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.	Labor Day Edpuzzle
Patriot Day & 9/11 Commemoration	Sept. 11th	On 9/11, schools will hold remembrance ceremonies, beginning with moments of silence starting at 8:46 EDT to remember the victims of the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, we honor the courage and selflessness of our first responders, servicemembers, and fellow citizens who served our Nation and its people in our hour of greatest need.	 September_ Social Stu...
U.S. Constitution Day	Sept. 17th	United States Public Law requires that public educational institutions receiving federal funds teach about the Constitution on September 17 each year.	 September_ Social Stu...
Celebrate Freedom Week	Last full week of	Celebrate Freedom Week must include at least <u>3 hours of</u>	

	September	<u>appropriate instruction in each social studies class</u>, as determined by each school district. This instruction shall include an in-depth study of the intent, meaning and importance of the Declaration of Independence. At the beginning of each school day or in homeroom, during Celebrate Freedom Week, public school principals and teachers shall conduct an oral recitation by students of the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence.	 September_ Social Stu...
Hispanic Heritage Month	Sept. 15th - Oct. 15th	National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries	 September_ Social Stu...
Holocaust Education Week	Second week in Nov.	November 9th and 10th marks the anniversary of Kristallnacht. This week was established as an opportunity to honor the memory of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the State of Florida, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.	
Victims of Communism Day	Nov 7th	“Victims of Communism Day” shall be suitably observed in Florida public schools as a day honoring the 100 million people who have fallen victim to communist regimes across the world. Starting the 2023-2024 school year, mandatory instruction of 45 minutes in US Government classes.	
Veterans Day	Nov. 11th	This is observed to encourage patriotism, recognizing the	

		sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans and Medal of Honor recipients when practicable.	
Thanksgiving Day	4th Thurs in Nov.	According to Florida Statute, this is "[a] day of public thanksgiving and prayer"	
Election Day	Tues. after the first Mon. in Nov.	This is an annual day set by law for the general elections of federal public officials.	
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Dec. 7th	We solemnly honor and uphold the memory of the patriots who lost their lives that day—"a date which will live in infamy"—and we reflect on the courage of all those who served our Nation with honor in the Second World War.	
Bill of Rights Day	Dec. 15th	This day is to celebrate the ratification of our first 10 amendments.	
MLK Jr. Day	Jan. 16th	A day honoring MLK Jr.	
Holocaust Remembrance Day	January 27th	Senate Bill 356 Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27th was selected as it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau)	
African American History Month	Entire February	This observance was officially established by President Gerald Ford in 1976 to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."	
Women's History Month	Entire March	This month was established to celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the	

		specific achievements women have made throughout American history in a variety of fields.	
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day	Fourth Thursday in March	According to HB1227, the fourth Thursday in March will be designated Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day as a legal holiday. This observance honors the 99th Fighter Pursuit Squadron, the first black flying squadron, for their unprecedented military aviation accomplishments.	
Medal of Honor Day	March 25th	This is observed in order to encourage patriotism, to remember the sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans and Medal of Honor recipients when practicable. The focus of instruction should be on the values of the recipients.	
Pascua Florida Day	April 2nd	According to Florida statute, April 2nd of each year is hereby designated as "Florida State Day." The day is also to be known as "Pascua Florida Day." An annual celebration of Juan Ponce de Leon's arrival in Florida.	
Yom Hashoah/Day of Remembrance	2025-Thursday, April 24	The internationally recognized date for Holocaust Remembrance Day corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar. It marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called Yom Hashoah.	
Financial Literacy Month	Entire April	This month was established to improve financial literacy, especially among our nation's youth, and to promote the financial well-being of all consumers.	

Armed Forces Week	Second Sat. of May	A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.	
Memorial Day	Last Mon. of May	This is observed in order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day. **It should be noted that Memorial Day is specifically to remember those who died serving their country.	
Florida Emancipation Day	May 20th	This day is an opportunity to recognize that emancipation was proclaimed in Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, 11 days after the end of the Civil War, and two years after the Proclamation first issued by President Abraham Lincoln freed those enslaved in Southern states.	