

Basic Civics Test

Granite School District

To be implemented 2015-16



American Civics Education Initiative, S.B. 60, was passed in the Utah legislative session of 2015. This law requires the successful passage of a basic civics test or an alternate assessment as a condition of graduation. This requirement applies to any public school student who graduates on or after January 1, 2016, as well as any student enrolled in an adult education program.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions and their answers.

What is meant by “basic civics test”?

Per the legislation, the basic civics test must be created using 50 questions from the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) civics test. Granite School District is using the 50 questions recommended by USOE.

What is the alternate assessment?

The alternate assessment is an oral exam that follows the same guidelines set forth by USCIS. In the alternate assessment, 10 questions are selected and the test-taker must answer 6 correctly. The 10 questions used for the alternate assessment are at the end of this document.

How is the alternate assessment administered?

The alternate assessment is administered as an oral exam. The LEA may modify the manner of the administration of the alternate assessment for a student with a disability in accordance with the student’s IEP.

Who is eligible for the alternate assessment?

A student with a disability and/or a student who is within six months of intended graduation and has not passed the basic civics test.

What is a passing score for the basic civics test?

Students pass by answering 35 or more questions correctly from the 50-question test.

Basic Citizenship Test

At what grade will a student take the assessment?

Because this is a new graduation requirement implemented 2015-16, all Granite School District students in grades 8 – 12 will be taking the Basic Civics Test during the 2015-16 school year. After the 2015-16 school year, the Basic Civics Test will be administered in 8th grade, with students in other grades being tested only if they've missed the test by moving in from other school districts.

At what point in the school year will a student take the assessment?

Teachers and administrators will decide when those students will take the test during that year. We recommend administering the test after the civics component of their social studies course is taught in grades 8 and 12; a short review of basic civics is recommended in other courses lacking a strong civics unit.

How many times can a student take it?

A student can take the assessment as many times as necessary for passage.

Are there study materials available for students?

There are practice tests available on the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services website: <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test>