



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Christian County Board of Education Board Members

FROM: Dr. Melanie Barrett, Director of Pupil Personnel

DATE: June 19, 2025

RE: Board Determination of Civics Requirement for Graduates

Per the Senate HB 535 (2023) beginning with the entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade class of the 2025-2026 school year, and year thereafter, graduation requirements for each student in every public high school in Kentucky graduating with a regular diploma shall include successful completion of either:

- A one-half (1/2) credit course in civic literacy meeting statutory curriculum and standards requirements; or
- A civics test composed of one hundred (100) questions from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens.

The Board shall determine which of the following options shall be required for the graduates of the district.

- If the Board selects a ½ credit course in civic literacy the curriculum would be selected and reviewed through collaboration of the Instructional Department and the high schools administrative team.
- If the Board requires completion of the civics, the Board shall prepare or approve the test as described. The test will be administered by each high school in the district.
- By September 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, the District requiring a civics test for graduation shall submit annual testing data to the Kentucky Department of Education.
- A minimum of 70% is required to pass the test.
- A student shall not receive a regular diploma until the student scores a new minimum of 70%.

- The test requirement shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.

Christian County Public Schools (CCPS) has had a 100% success rate in regard to the Civics Exam. After conferring with the instructional department, it was verified the Civics exam has **not** been a deterrent for any CCPS student to meet graduation requirements.

The Board is requested to determine the civics requirement option for Christian County Public Graduates.