



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 9, 2005

To: Deans of Institutions of Higher Education, Intermediate School District  
Superintendents, District Superintendents, Building Principals, Public School  
Academy Superintendents

From: Michael P. Flanagan

Subject: Constitution Day Celebration – Mandatory Observance

On September 17, 1787, the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention held their final meeting. Only one item of business occupied the agenda that day, to sign the Constitution of the United States of America. In just four hand-written pages, the Constitution gave us an owners' manual to the greatest form of government the world has ever known.

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-West Virginia) has been concerned for a number of years, that American students have not developed a keen knowledge of, nor appreciation for the basic premises of the U.S. Constitution, and sought to correct this oversight in an amendment to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 that designated September 17<sup>th</sup> of each year as Constitution Day. It was signed into law on December 8, 2004, as Public Law 108-4-47, by President George W. Bush. **This NEW statute requires all educational institutions receiving Federal funds** to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup>, for the students served by the educational institution. If September 17<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the law allows the celebration to be held during the preceding or following week. The law is not specific on the content or length of education program.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has [proclaimed](#) Friday, September 16, 2005 as "Constitution Day" in Michigan for schools and the public to reflect on the importance of the U.S. Constitution. To assist you in commemorating this important day and the implementation of this requirement, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed a list of web-based Constitution Day [resources and activities](#) that may be individualized to support your celebration.

In October, you will be receiving additional information from the department to certify compliance through the Michigan Electronic Grant System (MEGS). For additional information, contact Karen R. Todorov at [todorok@michigan.gov](mailto:todorok@michigan.gov).

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