



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 12, 2006

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

From: Michael P. Flanagan,  Superintendent of Public Instruction

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. This oversight was corrected with an amendment to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 that designated September 17th 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 statute requires all educational institutions receiving Federal funds** to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17th, for the students served by the educational institution. If September 17th 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 the education program.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed Monday, September 18, 2006 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.

You will need to certify compliance through the Michigan Electronic Grant System (MEGS) by December 15, 2006. If you have questions on the MEGS submission process, please contact Judy Byrnes at 517 373-1806 or byrnesJ@michigan.gov. For questions on the Constitution Day Celebration, please contact Karen R. Todorov at 517 373-4226 or todorok@michigan.gov.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324