

For Immediate Release

Office of Communications
860-713-6458

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U.S. Constitution Day and Youth Democracy Month Observed

HARTFORD - In an effort to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution in September 17, 1787, a provision enacted by Congress in 2004, requires that all U.S. education facilities receiving federal funds must offer an educational program that recognizes the significance of the event. To this end, Governor M. Jodi Rell has proclaimed September 18, 2006, as the designated day for schools to recognize Constitution Day. Since September 17 falls on Sunday, the day will be celebrated nationwide on Monday, September 18, 2006.

Additionally, the Governor has proclaimed September as Youth and Democracy Month. During the month, Connecticut high schools are encouraged to conduct special services with the goal of engaging young people in the democratic process. Democracy Works, the Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education serve as partners in developing and distributing appropriate resources for schools.

In 2001, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted a high school graduation requirement of one-half credit in civics, beginning with the class of 2004. The Connecticut Social Studies Framework serves as a guide to implement the graduation requirement for civics education in Grades Pre K – 12. In this framework, the civics content standards form the basis for curriculum development and can be found on the Connecticut State Department of Education's web site at <http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currkey3.htm>.

“Constitution Day and Youth Democracy Month have been designated as a kick-off time for educational institutions to focus on activities and programs related to the Constitution and civic learning,” said Dan Gregg, social studies consultant. “We want to make sure that these activities are embedded in our democratic way of life that should be carried throughout the year.”

For additional information and resources to celebrate Constitution Day and Youth and Democracy Month, go to the Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship at <http://www.cclce.org> and Democracy Works at <http://www.democracyworksct.org>.

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