



HB 591: Institute the celebrate freedom week in Montana's public schools

[HB 591](#) (2025 Session) designated the last full week of September as Celebrate Freedom Week in public schools. District trustees must adopt a policy ensuring appropriate commemorative exercises are conducted on the days listed in law. The law took effect July 1, 2025.

Commemorative Days:

- Lincoln's Birthday (February 12)
- Washington's Birthday (February 22)
- Arbor Day (last Friday in April)
- Flag Day (June 14)
- Citizenship Day (September 17)
- American Indian Heritage Day (fourth Friday in September)
- Columbus Day (October 12)
- Pioneer Day (November 1)
- Freedom Week (last full week of September)

Schools & School Boards Responsibilities (at a glance)

- District trustees must adopt a written policy that ensures appropriate exercises are conducted on required commemorative days listed in §20-1-306, MCA (including Freedom Week).
- Schools should plan and deliver age-appropriate activities during Celebrate Freedom Week that teach students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of the United States and the values on which the United States was founded.

Program Ideas & Resources:

The U.S. Department of Education recommended activities to consider:

- Host a guest speaker (legal expert, historian, public official) on a constitutional topic.
- Organize a panel with students, educators, and community members on a principle (e.g., separation of powers) or a current event.
- Conduct a public reading of the Constitution with students, staff, families, and community members.
- Run a mock Constitutional Convention with historical roles.

- Interactive workshops leveraging the National Constitution Center & National Archives (games, online exhibits; Bill of Rights focus).
- Local/State history connections (how Montana events tie to constitutional issues; include the Montana Constitution).
- These recommendations and resource links: [U.S. Department of Education’s Constitution Day page](#).

OPI Indian Education Resources:

- [Indian Education for All \(IEFA\) hub](#): “Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians,” classroom units (including Montana Constitution Article X & IEFA), and ideas for American Indian Heritage Day.
- American Indian Heritage Day (2025) [one-pager](#) & activity suggestions.
 - Tip: If you want to extend Freedom Week into a full civics unit, IEFA has [Social Studies lessons](#) that map constitutional content to IEFA lessons by grade band.

Civics Resources:

- [U.S. Department of Education](#) — Constitution Day & Citizenship Day: central hub of vetted, public-domain teaching materials across all three branches.
- [National Constitution Center](#) —Resources & Classroom Library: K-12 curriculum, lesson plans, videos.
- [National Archives](#) — Teachers’ Resources & primary sources; Civics for All of US.
- Library of Congress — Constitution Day Teacher Resources & Research Guides, including the Constitution Annotated.
- [U.S. Courts](#) — Constitution Day & broader courtroom simulations.
- [Montana Secretary of State](#) — Civics & Youth Vote program; [Constitution contest](#).

Montana 250th Commission:

The 2023 Montana Legislature passed [House Bill 377](#), establishing the Montana 250th Commission to coordinate statewide efforts to commemorate the United States Semiquincentennial. The objectives of this commission are to promote civic engagement and increase public awareness of United States and Montana government and history, including the history of Tribal nations. You can find more information on the Commission, opportunities, and events on their [webpage](#).

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