



Temperance and Good Citizenship Day: A Timeline

A Brief History of a Law Unique to Washington State

1923: Washington State Legislature establishes Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

The Revised Code of Washington [RCW 28A.230.150](#) reads in part: "On January 16th of each year or the preceding Friday when January 16th falls on a non-school day, there shall be observed within each public school Temperance and Good Citizenship Day."

1969: Washington State Legislature amends Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Changes in [RCW 28A.230.150](#) expand the focus of this public school observance, allowing schools to emphasize the rights and duties of citizenship. The new wording includes the following directive: "Annually the state superintendent of public instruction shall duly prepare and publish for circulation among the teachers of the state a program for use on such day embodying topics pertinent thereto and may from year to year designate particular laws for special observance."

2009: Washington State Legislature establishes civics requirement for graduation

RCW 28A.230.090 increases the number of course credits in social studies required for high school graduation from 2.5 to 3.0, with a .5 credit for civics now required. This requirement applies to all students in the graduating class of 2016 and beyond.

2012: OSPI launches Civic Education Initiative

The Office of the Superintendent begins a campaign to emphasize the importance of preparing students for *civic readiness*; this is in response to the new graduation requirements in social studies for the graduating class of 2016 and beyond.

2013: Washington State Legislature passes budget bill and proviso

Budget bill (3ESSB-5034) includes a proviso that directs: "The superintendent of public instruction shall update the program prepared and distributed under [RCW 28A.230.150](#) for the observation of temperance and good citizenship day to include providing an opportunity for eligible students to register to vote at school."

2014: Cascade Middle School hosts Temperance and Good Citizenship Day program

Students at Cascade Middle School become a part of history by participating in the Gilder Lehrman American History Teacher of the Year program as a part of the Temperance and Good Citizenship Day observance. Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn and Representative Steve Bergquist attend this observance, which marks the official launch of the voter registration proviso (budget Bill 3ESSB-5034) that Representative Bergquist introduced during the 2013 legislative session.



2018: Governor Inslee signs into law HB 1896 to support Civic Education in Washington State Public Schools

HB 1896 changes Social Studies graduation requirements to include a standalone .5 credit Civics class. [RCW 28A.230.093](#) is enacted ensuring all students entering high school during the 2020–21 school year complete a half credit of Civics in order to graduate. HB 1896 also provides funding to support Civic education in Washington’s K–12 classrooms. Information on this initiative can be found at: k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/CivicEducation.aspx

2019: OSPI partners with the Office of Secretary of State to bring #FutureVoter to classrooms statewide on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

This is the first full year of implementation for early voter registration on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction partners with the Office of Secretary of State to provide voter registration forms, instructions, and classroom materials to assist teachers in preregistering students aged 16–17, as per [RCW 28A.230.150](#). More information can be found at: sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx

If you have questions regarding Temperance and Good Citizenship Day please email Program Supervisor Jerry Price (jerry.price@k12.wa.us).