



Procedure Number: 3530

Dated: 04/29/2026

POLICY PATRIOTIC, CIVIC, AND CHARACTER EDUCATION

PURPOSE

American Leadership Academy recognizes the importance of providing students with patriotic, civic, and character education as required by Utah law. The purpose of this policy is to foster a sense of civic responsibility, an understanding of the founding principles of the United States, and the development of positive character traits in students. This policy complies with Utah Code § 53G-10-302 and R277-475.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which promote an upright and desirable citizenry.
2. "Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States.
3. "Patriotic" means having love of and dedication to one's country.
4. "Patriotic education" means the educational and systematic process to help students identify, acquire, and act upon a dedication to one's country.

REQUIRED INSTRUCTION

A. Character Education:

ALA shall provide instruction for patriotic, civic, and character education through an integrated curriculum in accordance with Utah Code 53G-10-204 and through the schools RISE UP values. These include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Respect for and an understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the constitutions of the United States and of the state of Utah;
2. Respect for others, including their property and opinions;
3. Integrity, honesty, morality, civility, duty, and honor;
4. Service, and obedience to law;
5. Excellence in striving for a personal best in all things and being accountable for one's actions;
6. Unity by working together for a shared purpose;
7. Patriotism by developing a love and dedication for one's country and understanding their sacrifice.

B. United States History and Government

Instruction in United States history and government shall meet the requirements found in Utah Code 53G-10-302 and include the following:

1. A study of forms of government including a republic, a democracy, a monarchy, and an oligarchy.
2. A study of political philosophies and economic systems including socialism, individualism, and free market capitalism.
3. A study of the United States form of government, which is a compound constitutional republic.

C. Patriotic Education & Observances

The school shall provide regular opportunities for students to learn about and express patriotism.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge shall be recited at the beginning of each school day in every elementary and secondary classroom.
2. Flag Etiquette: Students will be instructed on the proper display of and respect for the United States flag. This includes the history of the flag, flag etiquette, and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag.
3. Civic Holidays: Instruction shall be provided in connection with federal and state holidays, including Constitution Day (September 17), Veterans Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

D. Civic Education & Founding Documents

The curriculum must meet the requirements found in Utah Code 53G-10-302 and emphasize the history, structure, and function of local, state, and federal government and include a thorough study of relevant historical documents, including but not limited to the following:

1. The Declaration of Independence,
2. The United States Constitution,
3. The Bill of Rights,
4. The national motto,
5. The national anthem,
6. The Pledge of Allegiance,
7. The Mayflower Compact,
8. The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founders and the Presidents of the United States,
9. Original source documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial, Revolutionary, Federalist, and post Federalist eras,
10. Acts of the United States Congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record,
11. United States Supreme Court decisions, and
12. United States treaties.

To increase student understanding of, and familiarity with, American historical documents, schools may display historically important excerpts from, or copies of, those documents in classrooms and common areas.

There shall be no content-based censorship of American history and heritage documents referred to in this section due to their religious or cultural nature.

The schools shall display “In God we trust,” which is declared in 36 U.S.C. 302 to be the national motto of the United States, in one or more prominent places within each school building.

Students will learn the importance of voting, community service, and the rule of law. Faculty shall teach civic content in a way that is objective and avoids partisan advocacy.

REFERENCE

R277-475

UTAH CODE 53G-10-304