

# House Joint Resolution 14

Sponsored by Representatives WHISNANT, MCLAIN, HACK

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Chief Education Office to work with Department of Education and school district boards to ensure that school districts provide quality civics education. Directs office to summarize efforts to improve civics education.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

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2       Whereas the foundation of our democratic system is an informed and engaged electorate; and

3       Whereas public trust of all levels of government is on the decline, in part because people are  
4 inherently distrustful of anything that they do not understand; and

5       Whereas civics education is critical to providing the next generation of citizens with the skills  
6 and knowledge they need to carry on our democratic system and be successful in the 21st century  
7 workforce; and

8       Whereas public schools serve an important role in helping young people across the nation and  
9 this state gain the skills and knowledge they need to participate in civic activities; and

10       Whereas civics education is often put aside as more emphasis is placed on subjects covered by  
11 standardized testing and on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and

12       Whereas the democratic system is built on the assumption that every citizen equally possesses  
13 the right to participate in the decision-making processes of the government; and

14       Whereas every state is unique and has a different path for engaging citizens and improving civic  
15 education; and

16       Whereas there is a growing need for states to reestablish civics education as a priority for our  
17 public school students in kindergarten through grade 12; now, therefore,

18 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

19       That the Chief Education Office shall work with the Department of Education and school dis-  
20 trict boards to ensure that school districts provide quality civics education to all public school  
21 students to enable the students to have a better understanding of the roles and capabilities of gov-  
22 ernment; and be it further

23       Resolved, That the Chief Education Office shall summarize for the committees of the Legislative  
24 Assembly related to education all efforts to improve civics education no later than July 1, 2017.

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.