RECOGNITION DATES

The District shall regularly observe the following recognition days, weeks, and months by appropriate programs, celebrations, and activities:

WOMEN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

August 26: Women's Independence Day, to commemorate the ratification in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote. *Gov't Code 662.051*

TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

September 11: Texas First Responders Day, in honor of the bravery, courage, and determination of Texas men and women who assist others in emergencies. *Gov't Code 662.050*

CONSTITUTION DAY

September 17: A district that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution for the students served by the District. *Pub. L. 108-447 (2004)*

CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK

Week of September 17: Celebrate Freedom Week, to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded. [See CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK, below] *Education Code 29.907*

HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH

October: Hydrocephalus Awareness Month, to:

1. Increase public awareness of hydrocephalus, a serious neurological condition characterized by the abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluids in the ventricles of the brain; and

2. Encourage the development of partnerships between the federal government, health-care professionals, and patient advocacy groups to advance the public's understanding of the condition, improve the diagnosis and treatment of the condition, and support research for a cure.

Gov't Code 662.106

FATHER OF TEXAS DAY

November 3: Father of Texas Day, in memory of Stephen F. Austin, the great pioneer patriot and the real and true Father of Texas. *Gov't Code 662.045*

SAM RAYBURN DAY

January 6: Sam Rayburn Day, in memory of that great Texas and American statesman, Sam Rayburn. *Gov't Code 662.041*

STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY

February 19: State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day (STAR Day), in honor of Texas joining the Union and the day that James Pinckney Henderson became the first governor of the State of Texas in 1846. G*ov't Code 662.047*

TEXAS HISTORY MONTH	March: Texas History Month, in honor of those Texans who helped shape the history of the State of Texas and in recognition of events throughout Texas' history. *Gov't Code 662.102*
PARAPROFESSIONAL DAY	The second Wednesday in May: Public School Paraprofessional Day, in recognition of education paraprofessionals including teacher assistants, instructional aides, educational trainers, library attendants, bilingual assistants, special education associates, mentors, and tutors. *Gov't Code 662.049*
OPTIONAL RECOGNITION DATES	In addition, the District may observe the following recognition days, weeks, or months, by appropriate celebrations and activities:
DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA DAY	Third Wednesday of September: Dr. Hector P. Garcia Day, in memory of the significant contributions to the Mexican American civil rights movement of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a distinguished physician and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the founder of the American GI Forum, which promotes civil rights protection of Hispanic veterans and all Americans. Dr. Garcia, a World War II hero, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with six battle stars in recognition of his meritorious service to the United States. *Gov't Code 662.055*
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH	October: Persons with Disabilities History and Awareness Month, to increase public awareness of the many achievements of people with disabilities; encourage public understanding of the disability rights movement; and reaffirm the local, state, and federal commitment to providing equality and inclusion for people with disabilities. *Gov't Code 662.109*
TEXAS NATIVE PLANT WEEK	Third week in October: Texas Native Plant Week, to celebrate the native plants of Texas. *Gov't Code 662.154*
LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH	November: Lung Cancer Awareness Month, to increase awareness of lung cancer and encourage funding of research and more effective treatments. *Gov't Code 662.104*
CHILD SAFETY MONTH	April: Child Safety Month, in recognition of the children of this state as this state's most precious resource. *Gov't Code 662.105*
CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK	The week in which September 17 falls is designated as Celebrate Freedom Week in public schools. For purposes of this section, Sunday is considered the first day of the week. *Education Code 29.907*
APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION	Each social studies class shall include, during Celebrate Freedom Week or during another full school week as determined by the Board, appropriate instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United

States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical context.

The study of the Declaration of Independence must include the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the American Revolution, the formulation of the United States Constitution, and the abolitionist movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and the women's suffrage movement.

19 TAC 74.33(a)

RECITATION

Each district shall require that, during Celebrate Freedom Week or other prescribed week of instruction, students in grades 3–12 study and recite the following text: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their Just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

EXCEPTION

Each district shall excuse from recitation a student:

1. Whose parent or guardian submits to the District a written request that the student be excused;
2. Who, as determined by the District, has a conscientious objection to the recitation; or
3. Who is the child of a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity.

19 TAC 74.33(b), .36

GENERATION TEXAS WEEK

Each district offering middle school, junior high school, or high school grade levels shall designate one week during the school year as Generation Texas Week. During the designated week, each middle school, junior high school, and high school shall provide students with comprehensive grade-appropriate information about the pursuit of higher education, including:

1. Higher education options;
2. Standard admission requirements for institutions of higher education, including:
    a. Overall high school grade point average;
    b. Required curriculum;

c. College readiness standards and expectations as determined under Education Code 28.008; and

d. Scores necessary on generally recognized tests or assessment instruments used in admissions determinations, including the Scholastic Assessment Test and the American College Test;

3. Automatic admission of certain students to general academic teaching institutions under Education Code 51.803 [see EIC]; and

4. Financial aid availability and requirements, including the financial aid information provided by counselors under Education Code 33.007(b) [see EJ].

In addition, each middle school, junior high school, and high school shall provide to students at least one public speaker to promote the importance of higher education.

Education Code 29.911

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The District may provide a character education program, which must:

1. Stress positive character traits, such as:

   a. Courage;

   b. Trustworthiness, including honesty, reliability, punctuality, and loyalty;

   c. Integrity;

   d. Respect and courtesy;

   e. Responsibility, including accountability, diligence, perseverance, and self-control;

   f. Fairness, including justice and freedom from prejudice;

   g. Caring, including kindness, empathy, compassion, consideration, patience, generosity, and charity;

   h. Good citizenship, including patriotism, concern for the common good and the community, and respect for authority and the law; and

   i. School pride;

2. Use integrated teaching strategies; and

3. Be age appropriate.

In developing or selecting a character education program under this section, the District shall consult with a committee selected by the District that consists of parents of District students, educators, and other members of the community, including community leaders.

The provisions above do not require or authorize proselytizing or indoctrinating concerning any specific religious or political belief.

Education Code 29.906

STUDENT ELECTIONS

An election for the participation of students in kindergarten through grade 12 may be held in conjunction with a general, special, or primary election. The student election may be ordered by:

1. The commissioners court, for a student election held in conjunction with an election ordered by the governor or a county authority;
2. The governing body of a political subdivision, for a student election held in conjunction with an election of the political subdivision; or
3. The county executive committee, for a student election held in conjunction with a primary election.

A student election may be held only on election day or the day before election day.

The authority ordering a student election shall specify in the order each grade that may participate in the election. A student in a specified grade may enter a precinct polling place for the purpose of casting an unofficial ballot in the student election on the same offices and measures that appear on the official ballot.

The election officers serving in the official election may not serve in the student election. The authority ordering a student election shall appoint a separate set of election officers to conduct the student election, supervise the participating students, and tabulate and report the results of that election. The authority ordering a student election shall make the results of that election available to the public but only after the polling places are closed on election day.

Expenses incurred in the conduct of a student election, including any personnel expenses, may be paid only from private grant funds or donations.

Election Code 276.007

CPR INSTRUCTION

The District may accept from TEA donations the agency receives under Education Code 7.026 for use in providing instruction to stu-

dents in the principles and techniques of CPR. The District may accept other donations, including donations of equipment, for use in providing CPR instruction. *Education Code 29.903*