

EDUCATION NEWS

This New Law Ensures South Carolina Students Will Study the Founding Documents

Faith Vander Voort / June 17, 2016

Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican, signed a South Carolina House bill into law that implements the study of U.S. founding documents into the state's public high schools.

The South Carolina Founding Principles Act requires the study of the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and “the structure of the government and the role of separation of powers and the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights” to be added into statewide social studies programs.

This bill, signed June 1, reinforces South Carolina's Section 59-29-120 that required all public education students, both in high school and in college, to pass a test after a year-long class on the founding documents and principles.

The Founding Principles Act bolsters the existing law by adding an accountability clause requiring the State Department of Education to report to the House and Senate Education Committees as well as the Public Works Committee every two years. This report will outline how South Carolina educators are teaching the documents in their classrooms.

Dear reader:

Reporters at the Washington Post, Huffington Post, and Wall Street Journal are attacking The Daily Signal for our press access at the White House.

They are afraid The Daily Signal is providing an alternative to the usual left-wing or establishment media spin. Now, they are using their “mainstream” media megaphones to diminish The Daily Signal.

The Daily Signal exists as an alternative to the mainstream media. We are a dedicated team of more

than 100 journalists and policy experts funded solely by the financial support of the general public.

We need your help! Not only are these media outlets going after our reputation, but the White House Correspondents' Association is facing pressure to exclude us.

Your financial support will help us fight for access to our nation's leaders and report the facts.

You deserve the truth about what's going on in Washington.

No amount of bullying is going to stop us from covering the White House.

Make a gift to support The Daily Signal!

[SUPPORT THE DAILY SIGNAL](#)

State Rep. Chip Huggins, R-Lexington, told The Daily Signal, "I was just so worried about the erosion away from our foundation, and when I say that, I think it's time we get back to the basics. The basics in which this country was founded. That's exactly what we wanted to accomplish with this bill."

Furthermore, teachers will be provided with "professional development opportunities" to ensure the subject is being properly taught.



"We now have the assurance that the founding principles will be taught." @ChipHugginsSC

“A major part of forming future citizens capable of self-government is ensuring that they are properly educated in the founding documents of our nation,” Arthur Milikh, associate director for principles and politics at The Heritage Foundation, told The Daily Signal in an email. “This was once common sense throughout America, but now we are forced to fight to ensure that even the most basic texts—the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, the Declaration of Independence—are taught.”

“These works tell us about the nature of our country, the principles for which we stand, and the way to preserve our constitutional order. Should these texts be lost to students, the next generation will be ruled entirely by popular culture and public opinion,” Milikh wrote.

Huggins, the main sponsor of the bill, said the legislation “ensures that when the standards are rewritten, the founding principles will still be included.”

The Founding Principles Act, however, does not force South Carolina public colleges to do the same.

Section 59-29-120 states that “no student in any such school, college, or university may receive a certificate of graduation without previously passing a satisfactory examination upon the provisions and principles,” but does not hold either public high schools or colleges to that standard. The accountability aspect of The Founding Principles Act only applies to South Carolina public high schools.

Even though Huggins didn’t win the battle with mandating the founding principles into state college curriculums, he believes he won the war with high schools. He stated that the important thing is “we now have the assurance that the founding principles will be taught.”

The Daily Signal depends on the support of readers like you. Donate now



THE CONSERVATIVE PERSPECTIVE

**Common Core harms America's schools.
Education decisions at the local level give parents greater choice.**

CONSERVATIVE IDEAS MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR EVERY AMERICAN

Faith Vander Voort

Faith Vander Voort is a member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation.