



## LEGAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FORMING CONSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN

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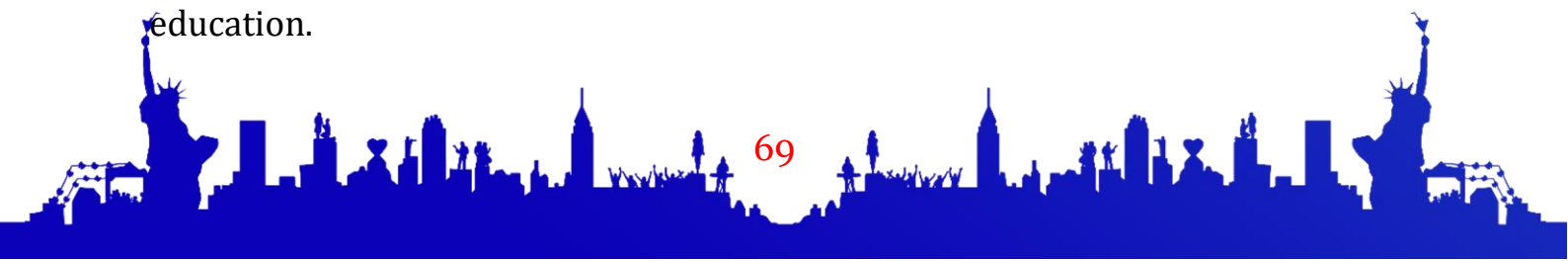
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### Introduction

In the process of building a legal, democratic, and social state in the Republic of Uzbekistan, enhancing citizens' constitutional knowledge and legal culture holds significant importance. The Constitution serves as a solid guarantee of the country's independence, the peaceful life of its people, and the protection of citizens' rights, freedoms, and interests. The education system functions as the main platform for developing such knowledge. The formation of constitutional knowledge not only increases legal literacy but also serves as an integral part of the state-building process, ensuring active civic participation. This, in turn, lays the foundation for the stable development of society and the enforcement of the rule of law.

**Constitutional foundations and principles.** The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in its new edition, consists of 6 sections, 27 chapters, and 155 articles, and has the highest legal force throughout the entire territory of the country, applying directly. It forms the basis of the legal foundations in the field of education. Article 41 of the Constitution guarantees that everyone has the right to education; free general secondary education is provided by the state, and school activities are under state control [1]. This provision means that educational institutions are controlled by the state regardless of the form of ownership. Additionally, according to Article 42, everyone is granted the freedom of scientific and technical creativity and the right to use cultural achievements, and the state is tasked with taking care of the cultural, scientific, and technical development of society.

The Constitution in its new edition, adopted through a nationwide referendum on April 30, 2023, has strengthened the constitutional foundations for building the "New Uzbekistan." This, in turn, requires that all reforms in the education system be implemented under updated constitutional and legal conditions. The adoption of the new Constitution is not merely an update of a legal document but a fundamental change aimed at further strengthening the priority of constitutional principles in all areas of state policy, including education.





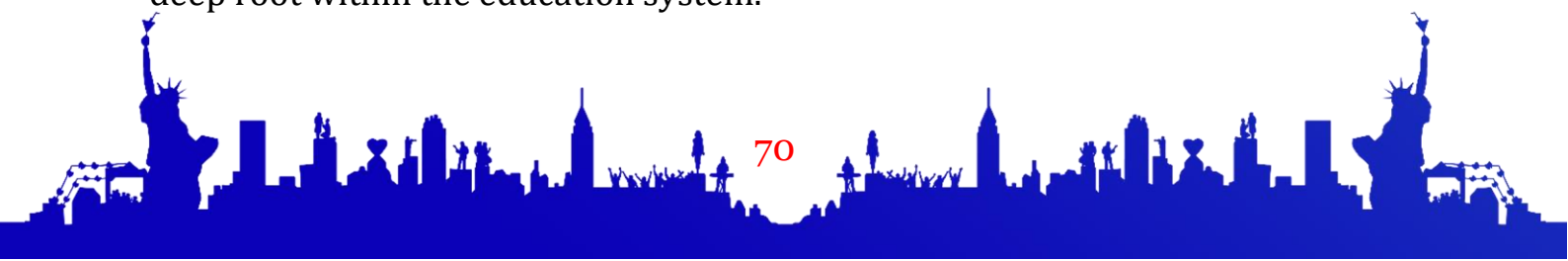
### **Legal documents in the field of education and their implementation.**

Legal documents play an important role in forming constitutional knowledge within the education system. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" (No. O'RQ-637), adopted on September 23, 2020, is the main document regulating the current education system. This Law consists of 11 chapters and 75 articles, and includes significant amendments and additions compared to the previous Law of 1997 [2]. The adoption of the new "On Education" Law is a strategic step aimed at modernizing legal relations in the field of education and bringing them closer to international standards. It creates a stronger and more modern legal basis for integrating constitutional knowledge into educational programs. The updating of the old law is a systematic reform intended to adapt the education sector to new socio-economic conditions, take into account international experiences, and meet future development needs.

Decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan also serve the development of constitutional education. In particular, the Presidential Decree dated January 4, 2001, "On the Organization of the Study of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan," established the introduction of a "Special Course on the Study of the Constitution" in all educational institutions. This aims to convey the essence, significance, and meaning of the Constitution to citizens [3].

Additionally, the Program of Measures for Enhancing Legal Awareness and Legal Culture in Society, approved by Resolution No. PQ-4540 dated December 13, 2019, aims to foster a sense of respect for the Constitution and laws among every citizen and official. Within the framework of this program, it is planned to create textbooks such as *"Alphabet of the Constitution"*, *"Lessons of the Constitution"*, and *"Foundations of the Constitution"* for general education schools, and to introduce minimum requirements for teaching legal knowledge about rights, freedoms, and obligations in educational institutions.

The *"Uzbekistan — 2030"* strategy, approved by Decree No. PF-158 dated September 11, 2023, envisions implementing education system reforms under the updated constitutional and legal conditions. The consistent and targeted adoption of presidential decrees and Cabinet of Ministers' resolutions demonstrates a commitment to creating a unified, continuous, and multi-stage system for shaping constitutional knowledge. This is not merely a set of isolated measures but a strategic direction aimed at ensuring that legal culture takes deep root within the education system.





## **Conclusion**

The formation of constitutional knowledge in the education system of Uzbekistan is based on a solid legal foundation, reflected in the Constitution itself, the Law "On Education," presidential decrees and resolutions, as well as decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers. The "Special Course on the Study of the Constitution," introduced since 2001, programs for enhancing legal culture in 2019, and the adoption of the new edition of the Constitution in 2023 demonstrate the consistency of state policy in this direction. Measures aimed at creating age-appropriate textbooks and improving the qualifications of teaching staff play an important role in raising legal awareness and culture.

To further improve constitutional education in the future, the following proposals and recommendations are put forward:

- Actively involve parents in the educational process and develop methodological recommendations to increase their legal literacy.
- Thoroughly study international experiences in legal education and adapt them to national conditions, particularly by improving the credit-modular system and extensively using information and communication technologies.
- Continuously monitor the effectiveness of constitutional education and strengthen mechanisms for its updating in accordance with societal needs.

Improving constitutional education should be not only a legal measure but also a continuous and dynamic process involving all segments of society. This requires deepening cooperation between the state and society in shaping legal culture. The education system should not be limited to laws alone; approaches aimed at effectively instilling constitutional knowledge should be practical, enriched with real-life examples, and utilize modern technologies.

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