

American Government Content Standards

Standard A: Know and understand how societies define authority, rights, responsibilities through governmental process.

Students will:

1. Understand motivations behind the creation of laws.
2. Be able to define citizens' rights of self expression and privacy.
3. Know the history and development of the US Constitution.
4. Compare and contrast current governmental and economic systems.
5. Understand and apply the political development of the origin of rights.

Standard B: Understand the constitutional foundations of the American political system and its democratic ideals.

Students will:

1. Understand the history of the development of constitutional law and its application today.
2. Understand the structure and function of the three branches of government.
3. Apply the constitutional principals of Federalism, Limited Government, Checks and Balances, Judicial Review, Popular Sovereignty, and Separation of Powers to the function of government.
4. Comprehend the importance of the six purposes of government as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution.
5. Understand the importance of individual liberties as defined by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Standard C: Understand the character of state government.

Students will:

1. Describe the constitutional relationship between federal, state, and local governments.
2. Know the structure and function of the branches of state government.
3. Understand the importance of an active role taken by citizens in state and local government.

4. Know how state statutes and local ordinances originate, are passed, and are enforced.

Standard D: Understand the role of the US in international affairs.

Students will:

1. Have a clear concept of contemporary political geography.
2. Understand the roles of the executive and legislative branches in the development of US international policy.
3. Understand the role the US plays in current international conflict situations.
4. Understand US interests in the global economy.