



At the end of High School, students can...



Social Studies

Civics
High School



COLORADO
Department of Education

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Social Studies Learning Expectations for Civics

Gather information about and engage civically to address issues at local, state, and national levels.

Describe the foundation of government (rule of law, common good) and its structures (Legislative, Executive, Judicial) and functions.

Understand how public policy is made at local, state and national levels; recognize that the policy making process depends on the form of government.

Gather and analyze data from multiple sources to look for patterns and create hypotheses regarding foreign policy issues/decisions.

Throughout High School, you may find students...

- Researching current issues (immigration, education) for the purpose of influencing public policy; identifying which level of government is appropriate to

communicate with regarding various issues; evaluating the accuracy and perspective of various media sources and describing how media acts as a check on governmental practices.

- Examining political philosophers (Locke, Hobbes) related to the origins and structure of government; analyzing competing democratic values (freedom vs. security, individual rights vs. common good).
- Explaining how the founding documents (Constitution, Bill of Rights), embody the principles of democracy and values such as freedom, security, equality, and individual rights.
- Analyzing options for learning about and participating in local, state, and national issues; investigating the goals and tools of U.S. foreign policy.
- Assessing the effectiveness of the justice system, executive actions, and the legislative process in preserving and promoting the ideals of the U.S. system of government; using court decisions and legislative actions to trace the development of the rights and ideals of America's representative democracy.