

Academic Standards for Civics and Government

*June 1, 2009 FINAL
Elementary Standards
Grades 3-8*



Pennsylvania Department of Education

These standards are offered as a voluntary resource for Pennsylvania's schools and await action by the State Board of Education.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDS
GRADES 3-8
Civics and Government

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XIV. INTRODUCTION

This document includes Academic Standards for Civics and Government that describe what students should know and be able to do in four areas:

- ◇ 5.1. Principles and Documents of Government
- ◇ 5.2. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- ◇ 5.3. How Government Works
- ◇ 5.4. How International Relationships Function

The Civics and Government Academic Standards describe what students should know and be able to do through twelfth grade. Throughout the standard statements, concepts found in lower grades must be developed more fully throughout higher grade levels.

The Pennsylvania Constitution of 1790 was the basis for the Free Public School Act of 1834 that is the underpinning of today's system of schools operating throughout the Commonwealth. These schools were created to educate children to be useful citizens, loyal to the principles upon which our republic was founded, and aware of their duties as citizens to maintain those ideals.

The Academic Standards for Civics and Government are based on the Public School Code of 1949 which directs "... teaching and presentation of the principles and ideals of the American republican representative form of government as portrayed and experienced by the acts and policies of the framers of the Declaration of Independence and framers of the Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights. . .". The intent of the Code is that such instruction "shall have for its purpose also instilling into every boy and girl who comes out of public, private and parochial schools their solemn duty and obligation to exercise intelligently their voting privilege and to understand the advantages of the American republican representative form of government as compared with various other forms of governments."

A glossary is included to assist the reader in clarifying terminology contained in the standards.

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5.1. Principles and Documents of Government						
	5.1.3. GRADE 3	5.1.4. GRADE 4	5.1.5. GRADE 5	5.1.6. GRADE 6	5.1.7. GRADE 7	5.1.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Rule of Law	5.1.3.A. Explain the purposes of rules, laws, and consequences.	5.1.4.A. Examine school rules and consequences.	5.1.5.A. Understand the rule of law in protecting property rights, individual rights and the common good.	5.1.6.A. Explain the effect of the rule of law in protecting property rights, individual rights , and the common good .	5.1.7.A. Cite functional examples of how the rule of law protects property rights, individual rights, and the common good.	5.1.8.A. Identify the sources of the rule of law .
Laws and Government	5.1.3.B. Explain rules and laws for the classroom, school, and community.	5.1.4.B. Explain rules and laws for the classroom, school, community, and state.	5.1.5.B. Describe the basic purposes of government in the classroom, school, community, state , and nation.	5.1.6.B. Compare and contrast a direct democracy with a republican form of government .	5.1.7.B. Identify the different types of government and the processes they use in making laws.	5.1.8.B. Outline how different systems of government function.

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5.1. Principles and Documents of Government											
5.1.3. GRADE 3		5.1.4. GRADE 4		5.1.5. GRADE 5		5.1.6. GRADE 6		5.1.7. GRADE 7		5.1.8. GRADE 8	
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>											
Principles and Ideals that Shape Government	5.1.3.C. Define the principles and ideals shaping local government . • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality	5.1.4.C. Explain the principles and ideals shaping local and state government . • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality	5.1.5.C. Describe the principles and ideals shaping local state , and national government . • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality	5.1.6.C. Explain how the principles and ideals shape local, state , and national government . • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality	5.1.7.C. Explain how the principles and ideals shape local, state , and national government . • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality	5.1.8.C. Analyze the principles and ideas that shaped local, Pennsylvania, and national governments. • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality					

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5.1. Principles and Documents of Government						
	5.1.3. GRADE 3	5.1.4. GRADE 4	5.1.5. GRADE 5	5.1.6. GRADE 6	5.1.7. GRADE 7	5.1.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Documents and Ideals that Shape Pennsylvania and US Government	5.1.3.D. Identify key ideas about government found in significant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution 	5.1.4.D Identify key ideas about government found in significant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution. 	5.1.5.D. Interpret key ideas about government found in significant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution 	5.1.6.D. Explain the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution 	5.1.7.D. Summarize the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution 	5.1.8.D. Summarize the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution

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5.1. Principles and Documents of Government												
5.1.3. GRADE 3		5.1.4. GRADE 4		5.1.5. GRADE 5		5.1.6. GRADE 6		5.1.7. GRADE 7		5.1.8. GRADE 8		
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>												
Individual Rights	5.1.3.E. Intentionally Blank		5.1.4.E. Intentionally Blank		5.1.5.E. Identify the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.		5.1.6.E. Summarize individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.		5.1.7.E. Compare and contrast the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution versus the U.S. Constitution.		5.1.8.E Compare and contrast the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution versus the U.S. Constitution.	
	Symbols	5.1.3.F. Identify state symbols, national symbols, and national holidays.		5.1.4.F. Identify state symbols, national symbols, and national holidays.		5.1.5.F. Explain the significance of state symbols, national symbols, and national holidays.		5.1.6.F. Describe how citizens and leaders use political symbols.		5.1.7.F. Describe how the media uses political symbols to influence public opinion.		5.1.8.F. Analyze how political symbols are used by the media and leaders to influence public opinion.

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5.2. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship						
	5.2.3. GRADE 3	5.2.4. GRADE 4	5.2.5. GRADE 5	5.2.6. GRADE 6	5.2.7. GRADE 7	5.2.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Civics Rights and Responsibilities	5.2.3.A. Identify personal rights and responsibilities.	5.2.4.A. Identify individual rights and needs and the rights and needs of others in the classroom, school, and community.	5.2.5.A Identify individual rights and needs and the rights and needs of others in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation.	5.2.6.A. Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state , and nation.	5.2.7.A Compare and contrast rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community, state , and nation.	5.2.8.A. Summarize the role of citizens in terms of right and responsibilities in different government systems.
Conflict and Resolution	5.2.3.B. Identify the sources of conflict and disagreement and different ways conflict can be resolved.	5.2.4.B. Describe the sources of conflict and disagreement and different ways conflict can be resolved.	5.2.5.B. Identify behaviors that promote cooperation among individuals.	5.2.6.B. Explain how citizens resolve conflicts in society and government .	5.2.7.B. Compare the methods citizens use to resolve conflicts in society and government.	5.2.8.B. Describe how citizens resolve conflicts in society and government.

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5.2. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship												
5.2.3. GRADE 3		5.2.4. GRADE 4		5.2.5. GRADE 5		5.2.6. GRADE 6		5.2.7. GRADE 7		5.2.8. GRADE 8		
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>												
Leadership and Public Service	5.2.3.C. Identify leadership and public service opportunities in the school, community, state , and nation.		5.2.4.C. Describe the roles of leadership and public service in school, community, state , and nation.		5.2.5.C. Explain why individuals become involved in leadership and public service.		5.2.6.C. Describe the importance of political leadership and public service .		5.2.7.C. Describe the role of political leadership and public service .		5.2.8.C. Describe the role of political leadership and public service .	
	Competent and Responsible Citizens	5.2.3.D. Describe how citizens participate in school and community activities.		5.2.4.D. Describe how citizens participate in school and community activities.		5.2.5.D. Identify specific ways individuals participate in school and community activities.		5.2.6.D. Explain why participation in government and civic life is important.		5.2.7.D. Describe the citizen's role in the political process.		5.2.8.D. Describe the citizen's role in the political process.

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5.3. How Government Works						
	5.3.3. GRADE 3	5.3.4. GRADE 4	5.3.5. GRADE 5	5.3.6. GRADE 6	5.3.7. GRADE 7	5.3.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Branches of Government	5.3.3.A. Identify the roles of the three branches of government .	5.3.4.A. Identify the roles of the three branches of government .	5.3.5.A. Describe the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government .	5.3.6.A. Describe the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government .	5.3.7.A. Compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government .	5.3.8.A. Compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government between Pennsylvania and the Federal government.

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5.3. How Government Works						
5.3.3. GRADE 3		5.3.4. GRADE 4	5.3.5. GRADE 5	5.3.6. GRADE 6	5.3.7. GRADE 7	5.3.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Structure, Organization, and Operation of Governments	5.3.3.B. Identify how laws are made in the local community.	5.3.4.B. Describe how the elected representative bodies function in making local and state laws.	5.3.5.B. Describe how the elected representative bodies function in making local, state , and national laws.	5.3.6.B. Define and compare the role and structure of local, state , and national governments .	5.3.7.B. Define and compare the role and structure of local, state , and national governments .	5.3.8.B. Compare and contrast the policy-making process between Pennsylvania and the federal government.

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5.3. How Government Works						
	5.3.3. GRADE 3	5.3.4. GRADE 4	5.3.5. GRADE 5	5.3.6. GRADE 6	5.3.7. GRADE 7	5.3.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Government Services	5.3.3.C. Identify services performed by the local governments .	5.3.4.C. Identify the services performed by local and state governments .	5.3.5.C. Describe the role of local and state government officials.	5.3.6.C. Describe how local, state , and national governments provide services.	5.3.7.C. Describe how local, state , and national governments provide services.	5.3.8.C. Describe how local, state , and national governments provide services.
Leadership and Political Elections	5.3.3.D. Identify positions of authority at school and community.	5.3.4.D. Identify positions of authority at the local and state , and national level.	5.3.5.D. Describe the primary duties of elected local, state , and national positions.	5.3.6.D. Identify leadership positions and their primary duties at the local, state , and national levels.	5.3.7.D. Identify leadership positions and the role of political party affiliation at the local, state , and national levels.	5.3.8.D. Identify leadership positions and the role of political party affiliation at the local, state , and national levels.

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5.3. How Government Works						
	5.3.3. GRADE 3	5.3.4. GRADE 4	5.3.5. GRADE 5	5.3.6. GRADE 6	5.3.7. GRADE 7	5.3.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Elements of the Election Process	5.3.3.E. Explain the purpose for elections.	5.3.4.E. Explain the voting process.	5.3.5.E. Identify the requirements to vote in local, state, and national elections.	5.3.6.E. Describe the voting process, including registration, primaries, and general elections.	5.3.7.E. Describe the closed primary voting process in Pennsylvania.	5.3.8.E. Describe the closed primary voting process in Pennsylvania.
Conflict and the Court System	5.3.3.F. Explain how an action may be just or unjust.	5.3.4.F. Explain how different perspectives can lead to conflict.	5.3.5.F. Examine different ways conflicts can be resolved.	5.3.6.F. Explain how courts resolve conflicts.	5.3.7.F. Identify the different levels of the court system.	5.3.8.F. Explain the various judicial levels of the U.S. and state.

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5.3. How Government Works						
	5.3.3. GRADE 3	5.3.4. GRADE 4	5.3.5. GRADE 5	5.3.6. GRADE 6	5.3.7. GRADE 7	5.3.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Interest Groups	5.3.3.G. Identify individual interests and explain ways to influence others.	5.3.4.G. Identify individual interests and explain ways to influence others.	5.3.5.G. Describe how groups try to influence others.	5.3.6.G. Identify individual interest groups and how they impact government .	5.3.7.G. Explain the role of interest groups in local and Pennsylvania governments.	5.3.8.G. Explain the role of interest groups in the federal government process.
Media Influences	5.3.3.H. Intentionally Blank	5.3.4.H. Intentionally Blank	5.3.5.H. Identify various sources of mass media .	5.3.6.H. Describe the influence of mass media on society.	5.3.7.H. Describe the influence of mass media on society.	5.3.8.H. Describe the influence of mass media on government.
Taxes	5.3.3.I. Intentionally Blank	5.3.4.I. Intentionally Blank	5.3.5.I. Intentionally Blank	5.3.6.I. Explain what taxes are and why they are necessary.	5.3.7.I. Identify types of local, state , and national taxes.	5.3.8.I. Describe various types of projects and services provided through local, state , and national taxes.

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5.3. How Government Works							
5.3.3. GRADE 3		5.3.4. GRADE 4		5.3.5. GRADE 5	5.3.6. GRADE 6	5.3.7. GRADE 7	5.3.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>							
Systems of Government	5.3.3.J. Intentionally Blank	5.3.4.J. Intentionally Blank	5.3.5.J. Intentionally Blank	5.3.6.J. Intentionally Blank	5.3.7.J. Identify various types of governments.	5.3.8.J. Compare democracy to totalitarianism.	

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5.4. How International Relationships Function						
	5.4.3. GRADE 3	5.4.4. GRADE 4	5.4.5. GRADE 5	5.4.6. GRADE 6	5.4.7. GRADE 7	5.4.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
Countries and Conflicts	5.4.3.A. Intentionally Blank	5.4.4.A. Intentionally Blank	5.4.5.A. Intentionally Blank.	5.4.6.A. Identify how countries have varying interests.	5.4.7.A. Identify how countries have varying interests.	5.4.8.A. Describe how national interests lead to agreements and conflicts between and among countries.
Tools of Foreign Policy	5.4.3.B. Intentionally Blank	5.4.4.B. Intentionally Blank	5.4.5.B. Describe the difference between nation and country .	5.4.6.B. Explain the difference between allies and adversaries.	5.4.7.B. Describe how countries coexist in the world community.	5.4.8.B. Describe the foreign policy tools of diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions , and treaties.

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5.4. How International Relationships Function						
	5.4.3. GRADE 3	5.4.4. GRADE 4	5.4.5. GRADE 5	5.4.6. GRADE 6	5.4.7. GRADE 7	5.4.8. GRADE 8
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>						
International Organizations	5.4.3.C. Intentionally Blank	5.4.4.C. Intentionally Blank	5.4.5.C. Intentionally Blank	5.4.6.C. Intentionally Blank	5.4.7.C. Intentionally Blank	5.4.8.C. Explain how common problems (e.g., natural disasters, ethnic conflict, environmental concerns) are addressed by organizations and governments.
Media and its Influence	5.4.3.D. Intentionally Blank	5.4.4.D. Intentionally Blank	5.4.5.D. Intentionally Blank	5.4.6.D. Intentionally Blank	5.4.7.D. Identify mass media sources and how they report world events.	5.4.8.D. Describe how mass media influences our view of international events.

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5.4. How International Relationships Function												
5.4.3. GRADE 3		5.4.4. GRADE 4		5.4.5. GRADE 5		5.4.6. GRADE 6		5.4.7. GRADE 7		5.4.8. GRADE 8		
<i>Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i>												
How Foreign Policy is Influenced	5.4.3.E. Intentionally Blank		5.4.4.E. Intentionally Blank		5.4.5.E. Intentionally Blank		5.4.6.E. Intentionally Blank		5.4.7.E. Intentionally Blank		5.4.8.E. Intentionally Blank	

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XV. GLOSSARY

Amendment (Constitutional):	Changes in or additions to a constitution. Proposed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures. Ratified by approval of three-fourths of the states.
Authority:	Right to control or direct the actions of others, legitimized by law, morality, custom or consent.
Bill of Rights:	First Ten Amendments to the Constitution. Ratified in 1791, these amendments limit government power and protect basic rights and liberties of individuals.
Checks and Balances:	Constitutional mechanisms that authorize each branch of government to share powers with the other branches and thereby check their activities. For example, the president may veto legislation passed by Congress; the Senate must confirm major executive appointments and the courts may declare acts of Congress unconstitutional.
Citizen:	Member of a political society who therefore owes allegiance to and is entitled to protection by and from the government.
Citizenship:	Status of being a member of a state; one who owes allegiance to the government and is entitled to protection by and from the government.
Civic Life:	A manner of existence of an individual concerned with the affairs of communities and the common good rather than solely in pursuit of private and personal interests.
Civil Rights:	Protections and privileges given to all United States citizens by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
Common or Public Good:	Benefit or interest of a politically organized society as a whole.
Conflict Resolution:	The process of attempting to solve a dispute or conflict.
Country:	The acceptable political boundaries or borders recognized throughout the world.

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Democracy:	Form of government in which political control is exercised by the people, either directly or through their elected representatives.
Diplomacy:	The art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations.
Direct Democracy:	Form of government in which the people completely exercise political decisions.
Documents of Government:	Papers necessary for the organization and powers of government.
Electoral College:	The group of presidential electors that casts the official votes for President after the presidential election. Each state has a number of electors equal to the total of its members in the Senate and House of Representatives.
Equal Protection:	An idea that no individual or group may receive special privileges from nor be unjustly discriminated against by the political authority of the legal system.
Equality:	The condition of possessing substantially the same rights, privileges and immunities, and being substantially responsible for the same duties as other members of society.
Foreign Policy:	Actions of the federal government directed to matters beyond United States' borders, especially relations with other countries.
Government:	Institutions and procedures through which a territory and its people are ruled.
Individual Rights:	Just claims due a person by law, morality or tradition as opposed to those due to groups.
Interest Group:	Organized body of individuals who share same goals and try to influence public policy to meet those goals.
Justice:	That which may be obtained through fair distribution of benefits and burdens, fair correction of wrongs and injuries, or use of fair procedures in gathering information and making decisions.
Leadership:	State or condition of one who guides or governs.

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Liberalism:	A perspective on international politics that is based on a positive view of human nature, the inevitability of social progress and the harmony of interests.
Liberty:	Freedom from restraint under conditions essential to the equal enjoyment of the same right by others.
Mass Media:	Television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and other means of popular communication.
Nation:	Tends to refer to an ethnic group with a cultural and social community. A self-defined cultural community with a common identity and a common origin that spans generations
Nationalism:	A feeling of pride or passionate identification with a state on the part of its citizens.
Personal Rights:	Private legal privileges and decisions that individuals are free to participate in without intervention from government. Personal rights would include the right to vote, petition, assemble and seek public office.
Political Party:	Any group, however loosely organized, that seeks to elect government officials under a given label.
Political Philosophy:	Begins with the fundamental question about the relationship between a citizen and their state.
Public Service:	Action of benefit to local, state or national communities through appointed or elected office.
Realism:	A perspective on international politics emphasizing the inevitability of conflict among nations, the centrality of power and the ever – present threat of war.
Republic:	Form of government in which political control is exercised through elected representatives.
Republican Form of Government:	System of government in which power is held by the voters and is exercised by elected representatives responsible for promoting the common welfare.
Rule of Law:	Principle that every member of a society, even a ruler, must follow the law.
Sanctions:	Measures to stop or limit trade with another nation in order to change its behavior.

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State: A commonwealth; a nation; a civil power.

United Nations: International organization comprising most of the nation-states of the world. It was formed in 1945 to promote peace, security and economic development.