

Idaho Achievement Standards



The goal of the Idaho Achievement Standards for Civics and Government is to prepare students to become informed, responsible citizens who can actively participate in political life. “Civic education is essential to the preservation and improvement of American representative government.”

In SIRS’ study of the Idaho Achievement Standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. SIRS Interactive Citizenship content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government, addresses the expectations for Government/Civics and presents a framework for understanding America’s ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen’s role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas by accessing primary sources such as, biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches and links to related articles and web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the Idaho Achievement Standards.

<<http://www.sde.id.us/osbe/exstand/Standards/2ssk-12website.pdf>>[2002,January 8]



Idaho Achievement Standards
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



Grades 9 – 12

501. Government/Civics

502. Civic Life, Politics, and Government.

- 01.** Understand the relationship among civic life, politics, and government.
- a. Know the definition of politics and identify the interrelationship between politics and government.
 - b. Explain how the United States is governed by a system of laws.
 - c. Know the different forms of government.

- *Chapter 1 defines what government is and how individuals' everyday lives are affected by it.*
- *Students learn about the different political systems and the types of governments found within each system. Historical and contemporary examples of authoritarian and democratic governments are provided.*

503. Foundations of the American Political System.

- 01.** Understand the foundations and principles of the American political system.
- a. Describe the origins of constitutional law in western civilization.
 - b. Compare and contrast the essential ideals and objectives of the original organizing documents of the United States including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution.
 - c. Explain the central principles of the United States governmental system including the written constitution, popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of powers, majority rule with minority rights, and federalism.
 - d. Evaluate how power and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited in the government established by the United States Constitution.
 - e. Analyze Amendments to the United States Constitution in terms of the conflicts they addressed and the reasons for their adoption.
 - f. Describe how diverse populations contribute to political life in the United States.

- *Chapter 1 examines the origins of ideals and objectives the United States were founded on. Students read the writings of 18th century philosophers such as, Montesquieu and Rousseau.*
- *From Chapters 1 and 3, students can analyze the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and United States Constitution.*
- *Chapter 2 explores the federal system of government. Students learn about the separation of powers and checks and balances set forth by the Constitution.*
- *Chapter 3, The Constitution, closely examines this document and subsequent Amendments.*
- *Chapter 9 further discusses the Constitutional Amendments as they relate to individual and minority rights.*

504. Organization and Formation of the American System of Government.

- 01.** Understand the organization and formation of the American system of government.
 - a. Know the three branches of federal government, their powers, and responsibilities.
 - b. Explain the functions, powers, and relationships among federal, state, and local governments.
 - c. Explain how each level of government raises money to pay for its operations and services.
 - d. Analyze and explain the treaty/trust relationship the United States has with Native American tribes with emphasis on Idaho.
 - e. Analyze the role the political parties and other political organizations, and their impact on the American system of government.

- *Chapters 4 and 5 examine the Executive Branch of government. Students learn about the office of the President and his cabinet. Links to the White House and Cabinet level agencies are available.*
- *Chapter 6 examines the structure and functions of Congress. Students may link to the House of Representatives and Senate web sites.*
- *Chapter 7 examines the judiciary with a special focus on the Supreme Court.*
- *Chapter 2 explores the federal government's structure.*
- *Chapters 10 and 11 look at state and local governments, respectively. Students can access state governments' web sites to learn about current state issues.*
- *Chapter 12 looks at government's ability to tax in order to pay for public services and agencies.*
- *Chapter 1 contains a link to Native American tribal web sites where students can learn about tribal governments and their relationship with the federal government.*
- *Students may access the Coeur d' Alene Indian's home page to gather information on this native Idaho tribe.*
- *Chapter 16 traces political parties in America from Washington to present day. Students can access the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Green Parties web sites.*

505. United States Foreign Affairs.

- 01.** Understand the significance of United States foreign policy in the modern world.
- Know the characteristics of United States foreign policy and how it has been implemented over time.
 - Identify and evaluate the role of the United States in international organizations and agreements.
 - Identify and evaluate American foreign policy as it relates to environmental issues.

- *Chapter 28 discusses U.S. foreign policy and traces foreign policy issues from the 1800's to today.*
- *Students learn about the United States' involvement in international organizations such as the Human Rights Commission and NATO.*
- *Chapter 18 examines national and global environments issues. Students can learn about the United States' participation in the United Nations Sustainable Development Commission.*

506. Citizen Responsibilities and Rights.

- 01.** Understand that all citizens of the United States have responsibilities and rights.
- Explain the balance of personal responsibilities and rights in American life.
 - Know the ways in which citizens can participate in the political process at the local, state, and national level.
 - Explain the electoral process at each level of government.
 - Know the concept of citizenship and the ways in which individuals become citizens.

- *Chapter 14 details the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*
- *Students learn about the process to become a citizen. A link to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) web site is available.*