



Rhode Island Standard Based Guide for Social Studies Programs

What Citizens Need to Know About Government

addresses Rhode Island Standard Based Guide for Social Studies Programs for the civics and government components of the curriculum, grades 9-12.



*Note: Rhode Island does not have specific social studies standards, opting instead to compile national and regional standards in a Standard Based Guide for Social Studies Programs. Please refer to the National Standards for Civics and Government accessible from the following Web link: http://www.sirs.com/pdfs/wcntk_cg.pdf and also refer to the Rhode Island Social Studies Standards for the Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) correlated below.

Social Studies Standards for CIM

CIVICS/GOVERNMENT

STANDARD 1 – Structure & Purpose of Government

The student understands the purposes, structure, and variety of governments with specific emphasis on constitutional democracy.

- *Chapter 1 describes the purposes of government and identifies the various types of government structures. Different categories of government, such as command, custom and consent, are defined and different types of government, like democracies and dictatorships, are identified. Examples are given of each. Related articles and Web sites include more information on different types of government structures.*
- *Chapter 2 identifies the U.S. federal government structure. Key concepts and terms like checks and balances and federation are defined. The debate between Federalists and anti-Federalists in the early formation of the United States government is discussed and Web links are included to all the Federalist Papers and the response of anti-Federalists.*
- *Chapter 3 explains how the U.S. Constitution defines the structure and purpose of the U.S. federal government. Key terms like loose constructionist and strict constructionist are defined. The different branches of the federal government are identified and a link is provided to the complete text of the U.S. Constitution.*
- *Chapter 4 discusses the role of the president in the U.S. government. The powers and restraints of the presidency are identified and terms, such as veto and impeachment, are defined. Biographies of all U.S. presidents are included and a Web link is provided to the Web page of the White House for more information on the presidency.*

- *Chapter 5 explores the role of the cabinet in advising the president and overseeing the various departments of the federal government. Web links are available to all cabinet departments, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense.*
- *Chapter 6 describes the role of Congress in the federal government. Web links are provided to both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and all the major congressional committees.*
- *Chapter 7 examines the role of the judiciary in the U.S. government. The differences between civil and criminal court cases are described and illustrated with graphics. Web links are included to the U.S. Supreme Court and many lower courts, such as the Bankruptcy Court, the Court of Appeals and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.*
- *Chapter 8 discusses the federal bureaucracy and explains how the bureaucracy works in providing services to the country. The efficiency of the federal bureaucracy is debated and related articles present opposing views on the best way to reform the bureaucracy.*

STANDARD 2 – Foundations of the American Political System

The student understands the principles and ideas underlying the American political system.

- *Chapter 1 explores the principles and ideas underlying the American political system. The importance of such documents as Hammurabi's code, the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights is discussed and links are available to the complete text of these and other primary documents. Influential philosophers, such as John Locke and Thomas Hobbes, are identified and links are provided to their biographies and the complete texts of their most important works.*
- *Chapter 2 discusses the principles of federalism that is a major underlying concept in the American political system. Key concepts, such as separation of powers and checks and balances, are defined. The debate between Federalists and anti-Federalists in the early formation of the United States government is discussed and Web links are included to all the Federalist Papers and the response of anti-Federalists.*
- *Chapter 3 explains how the U.S. Constitution lays out the principles and ideas underlying the American political system. Key concepts and terms like civil liberties and amendments are addressed. A link is included to the complete text of the U.S. Constitution. Related articles and Web sites discuss the current interpretations of constitutional issues, such as the impact the War on Terrorism has on civil liberties.*

STANDARD 3 – Civic Responsibility

The student understands the rights and responsibilities of the United States citizens and employs the civic skills necessary for participatory citizenship.

- *Chapter 14 explores the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens. The process by which immigrants become naturalized citizens is described and a Web link is provided to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services for more information on the naturalization process. Related articles and Web sites examine current issues associated with immigration and citizen participation in the government.*
- *Chapter 15 explains how voting is both a right and a responsibility of citizens. The voting process is discussed and terms like suffrage and recall are defined. Links are included to the complete text of important government legislation related to voting, such as the Voting Rights Act. Related articles and Web sites identify issues and individuals on the ballot in the current election cycle.*
- *Activities in the Educator's Guide for many chapters suggest students become active citizens and become more involved in their communities. Activities include writing letters to congresspersons, mayors or city councilpersons and polling classmates and the community about current topics.*

STANDARD 4 – International Diplomacy

The student understands the relationship of United States politics and government to world affairs.

- *Chapter 27 discusses the importance of national security and explains how the U.S. is involved militarily around the world. The impact of terrorism on U.S. national defense and international relations is explored. Issues associated with nuclear nonproliferation are also addressed and links are included to the complete texts of influential treaties like the Limited Test Ban Treaty and the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty. Related articles and Web sites include current information on U.S. military deployments around the globe.*
- *Chapter 28 explores issues associated with international diplomacy. The role of the United States in major international organizations is discussed and links are included to the Web sites of such organizations as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Related articles and Web sites discuss U.S. positions on international issues and explore current U.S. relations with other nations.*