

GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS AND SERVICES

SS.7.CG.3.13 Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state and national levels.

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2023 BENCHMARK UPDATES

- Updated from SS.7.C.3.14
 - Changed from “~~Differentiate~~ between local, state, and federal governments’ obligations and services.” to “Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state and national levels”
- Depth of Knowledge Changes within Benchmark
 - Changed from “Differentiate” to “Explain”
- Benchmark Clarification Changes
 - Deletion of “Students will evaluate scenarios in order to determine which level of government provides specific services.”
 - Changed from “Students will classify ~~government~~ services according to level of government ~~in order to evaluate the role that each plays in their lives.~~” to “Students will describe and classify specific services provided by local, state and national governments.”
 - Changed from “Students will compare the obligations/powers of governments ~~at each level.~~” to “Students will compare the powers and obligations of local, state and national governments.”
 - Deletion of “Students will compare the reserved, concurrent, expressed/enumerated powers of government.”
- Vocabulary Changes
 - No changes

Essential Teacher Content Background Information

[Teacher Content Notes Not Appropriate For Student Use]

This section addresses the following topics:

1. National Obligations and Services to the People
2. State Obligations and Services to the People
3. Local Obligations and Services to the People
4. Sharing Obligations, Services and Powers

The national government and state and local governments in the U.S. are obligated by the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions and local charters to provide services to people living within their jurisdictions. The obligations and services provided by each level of government speak to the role that these governments play in citizens' lives.

1. The National Government's Obligations and Services to the People

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution outlines the powers of Congress. These powers of Congress list the national government's obligations to the people. The opening phrase of Article I, Section 8 demonstrates the obligations and services that the national government is obligated to provide:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The national government is obligated to provide services to citizens equally regardless of the state in which they live. For example, in providing for the "common defense", the national government is obligated to defend any citizens who are threatened by foreign aggressors no matter where they live in the U.S. Similarly, all male citizens and resident aliens age 18-26 must register for Selective Service no matter the state in which they live.

Article I, Section 8 enumerates (lists) the powers of Congress. The final clause of this section extends to Congress whatever powers it needs to carry out the enumerated powers listed up to that point in the section. The "elastic clause" is shown here:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The final clause of Article I, Section 8 is called either the "elastic clause" or the "necessary and proper clause", both of which indicate that the Congress may do whatever it needs to in order to fulfill its obligations and services to the people. Powers that are given to the national government are also called "delegated" powers.

Together, the terms that are used to describe national powers are: delegated, enumerated and express all of which suggest that powers used to fulfill federal obligations are limited. Still, that Congress may do what it believes it needs to in order to fulfill its obligations suggests that Congress' powers are not as limited as Article I, Section 8 would suggest.

2. The State Government's Obligations and Services to the People

The State of Florida is obligated to provide specific services to individuals living in Florida. These services include public safety, law enforcement, health services and education. Florida's obligations and services are granted through the Tenth Amendment which reads as follows:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

As indicated by the Tenth Amendment, the states have "reserved" powers, which are powers that the state governments have to fulfill their obligations and services. The powers reserved to the states are not limited; states may do what they want as long as they are not forbidden from doing so by the federal government.

The Florida state government has the highest authority over local government affairs, as defined by the U.S. federal system. Local governments, counties and cities, are subdivisions of the state government. They may not pass laws that conflict with state laws.

3. Local Obligations and Services to the People

Public safety is a key responsibility of the local government that provides law enforcement, fire protection, animal control and protection, and code enforcement.

Public safety is a key responsibility of local government. One of the most important safety services provided by city and county government is police protection and law enforcement. City police officers and county sheriffs are responsible for enforcing federal, state and local laws. In the event of a declared emergency, local law enforcement authorities are obligated and empowered to enforce all orders, rules and regulations issued pursuant to the state Emergency Management Act. Public safety also includes fire protection, building inspection, code enforcement, animal control and protection, and emergency medical and rescue services.

Public services are basic city services that include transportation and public works, sanitation, solid and liquid waste management, air quality management, toxic and hazardous waste disposal, stormwater management, parks, public recreational services, libraries, water purification, wastewater (sewage) treatment, cable television, airports, ports, harbors, public cemeteries, golf courses, public housing assistance, and electric or gas utilities.

Counties must carry out constitutionally mandated responsibilities and those established by the state. County-level constitutional services include law enforcement and jail administration, tax collection, property appraisal, state court administration and supervision of elections. Counties are also charged with road maintenance, public health, solid waste disposal and other environmental responsibilities. Elected county officials determine other county services.

Each county has its own school district that has elected boards that govern the day-to-day operations of K-12 public education. School districts are a special-purpose local government. Funding is provided through property taxes and state revenues.

4. Sharing Obligations, Services and Powers

The information provided here demonstrates that national, state and local governments share responsibility to provide for the general welfare. In order to fulfill these responsibilities, governments are extended powers, some of which are limited by the U.S. and state-level constitutions. National obligations and services extend to all Americans no matter the state in which they live while state obligations and services are provided to all who live within that state's borders. In Florida, every inch of land is included in one of Florida's 67 counties. Each of Florida's counties is obligated by the state government and by county charter to fulfill various obligations and services. Over one-half of all Florida residents live in one of Florida's 400+ cities; like counties, cities are obligated to provide services to those living within city limits.

Concurrent powers are powers that are shared between and among the national, state and local governments. For example, both the national and state governments have the power to tax while both the national and state governments are obligated to provide public services, such as health and medical care.

Note: Section 3 is adapted from *Florida League of Cities: Florida City and County Government: A Teacher Handbook* 1991, Unit 2, Lessons 1-3 and Unit 6, Lesson 3.

Lesson Summary

ESSENTIAL QUESTION		
What are the differences between local, state, and national government obligations and services?		
BENCHMARK		
SS.7.CG.3.13 Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state and national levels.		
CIVICS EOC REPORTING CATEGORY		
N/A		
OVERVIEW		
In this lesson, students will compare the distribution of powers and obligations between the levels of government, classify specific services provided, and be able to explain how the U.S. Constitution is the basis for the obligations and powers of each level of government.		
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will describe and classify specific services provided by local, state and national governments. Students will compare the powers and obligations of local, state and national governments. 		
BENCHMARK CONTENT LIMITS		
N/A		
CIVICS CONTENT VOCABULARY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> federalism, local government, national government, obligations, services, state government, Tenth Amendment 		
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES		
Classifying & organizing notes	Comparing texts	Inquiry with primary sources
MATERIALS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Timeline activity sheet State Power: Got a Reservation? reading State Power: Got a Reservation? Guided Notes Obligations and Services slides Excerpts from Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution activity sheet State & Local Government activity sheet State & Local Government Obligations & Services List National, State and Local Cards National, State, and Local Services slides 		

B.E.S.T. STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA.7.R.2.1- Explain how individual text sections and/or features convey a purpose in texts.• ELA.7.R.3.2- Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.• ELA.V.1.3- Apply knowledge of context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the connotative and denotative meaning of words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.

Suggested Student Activity Sequence & Pace

DAY	ACTIVITY SEQUENCE
DAY 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage students in a brief discussion, posing the following questions: What role do you think the government plays in your daily routine each morning? In general, do you think the government has a role in the everyday tasks we complete? Allow students a few moments to reflect and respond. Pass out the “Morning Timeline” activity sheet. Ask students to come up with 6-8 examples of things they do each morning before arriving to school (columns 1 & 2). Provide students with time to complete this activity. Teacher Note: Students will not complete the third column or the written response at the bottom until the end of Day 3. Remind students that there are three levels of government: national, state, and local. Teacher Note: The terms ‘federal’ and ‘national’ will be synonymous in the context of this benchmark and lesson activities however the language of the benchmark is ‘national’. Pass out the “State Power: Got A Reservation?” reading from iCivics. Pass out the “State Power: Got A Reservation? Guided Notes” and explain to students that they will read through the iCivics reading and answer the questions on the guided notes sheet using specific examples from the text. Teacher Note: While the benchmark clarification that included vocabulary stressed in this reading was removed in the updated standards, the terms are still necessary for mastery of the benchmark as a whole. If you have already taught SS.7.CG.3.4 then this may be treated as a review. Come back together and review the reading, and guided notes as a class to check for understanding and any misconceptions.

DAY 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pose the following question to the students: According to yesterday's reading, where are national government powers listed? (U.S. Constitution). Where are state and local government powers listed? (State [Florida] Constitution) Introduce/review the terms obligations and services with the students using the “Obligations and Services” slides. Explain to students that the various powers derived from the constitutions translate into services that the different levels of government are obligated to provide. Pass out the “Excerpts from Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution” activity sheet and explain to students that they are going to look more closely at the powers listed for the national government in order to understand how those powers become obligations and services. Review the first excerpt and meaning as a whole class. Provide time for students to complete the rest of the reading activity. Review student answers as a whole class. Direct their attention to the summary of services section at the bottom of the “Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution” activity sheet. Using their understanding of national powers and the reading, ask students to think about the conclusions they can make about national government services. Pose the following questions for discussion: How do the powers of this level of government translate into services for the country they are obligated to provide?
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	<p>8. Ask students to share their answers. Teacher Note: Use the answer key provided below to guide the discussion.</p> <p>9. Explain to students that now that they have an understanding of the powers, obligations, and services of the national government, they will look more closely at the state and local level through an examination of excerpts from the U.S. and Florida Constitution.</p> <p>10. Pass out the “State & Local Government” activity sheet and explain to students that they are going to look more closely at powers of the state and local levels of government in order to understand how those powers become services for citizens.</p> <p>11. Model how to summarize an excerpt into your own words using any of the ones from the reading as order does not matter.</p> <p>12. Provide time for students to complete the rest of the reading and activity.</p> <p>13. Bring students back together and review answers as a whole class.</p> <p>14. Direct their attention to the summary of services section at the bottom of the State & Local Government reading/activity. Using their understanding of state and local powers, ask students to think about the conclusions they can make about state and local government services. Pose the following questions for discussion: How do the powers of these levels of government translate into services for the citizens of the state of Florida?</p> <p>15. Ask students to share their answers. Teacher Note: Use the answer key provided below to guide the discussion.</p> <p>16. Project the “State & Local Government Obligations & Services List” and review with students. Connect for students that while the powers, therefore obligations/services of the national government are delegated and more specific according to the U.S. Constitution, they learned through their readings that the state and local government powers are not limited and therefore encompass a wider variety of obligations/services based on the needs of the citizens.</p>
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DAY 3	<p>1. Provide each student with a set of “National, State and Local Cards”. Teacher Note: Pre-cut and laminate the cards before the lesson placing each set in an envelope so you can use the sets again.</p> <p>2. Project the “National, State, and Local Services” slides.</p> <p>3. Students will read through each power/obligation/service with you and choose which card(s) to hold up: National, State or Local. Teacher Note: Answers are provided in the notes section. Some slides have only one correct answer. Some slides have more than one correct answer. Some slides could be up to student interpretation and will allow for great class discussion.</p> <p>4. Project slide #2, read aloud with the students and ask that they take a moment to think. Then begin to count, “3-2-1 Commit”. At that point all students will hold up their card of choice.</p> <p>5. Take a look around the room. With the answer being ‘National’ (and only ‘National’), look to see if there was anyone who did not answer correctly and take this moment to clear up any misunderstandings and review.</p> <p>6. Repeat steps 4-5 for slides #3-32, pausing to review and have discussion when multiple levels are being held up for answers.</p> <p>7. Have students take out their “Morning Timeline” activity sheet from Day 1.</p> <p>8. Instruct students to look at the ten activities they listed at the beginning of this lesson and to fill in the third column. For each activity, they should list the level of government and service that was provided.</p>
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	<p><i>Teacher Note:</i> See sample answer key for examples.</p> <p>9. Instruct students to write a well-crafted informative response to the question at the bottom of the “Morning Timeline” activity sheet.</p> <p>10. Checking for Understanding (Formative Assessment):</p> <p>Instruct students to write a well-crafted informative response using the following prompt:</p> <p><u>Prompt</u></p> <p>Many citizens are unaware that the three levels of government provide different services. How would you explain the services of the national, state, and local governments to an unaware citizen?</p>
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Civics Content Vocabulary

Word/Term	Definition
concurrent powers*	powers shared by the national, state, and/or local government
expressed or enumerated powers*	the powers specifically given to the national government, also known as delegated powers; they may not be used by state governments
federalism	a system of government in which power is divided and shared between national, state, and local government
implied powers*	powers not written in the U.S. Constitution but are necessary and proper in order for the national government to carry out the expressed powers
inherent powers*	powers not listed in the U.S. Constitution but are necessary for the national government to function
local government	the governing body of a municipality or county
national government	the federal level of government; the government of the United States
obligations	something by which a person is bound or obliged to do certain things, and which arises out of a sense of duty or results from custom, law, etc. example: National government is obligated to provide all citizens with a “common defense”
reserved powers*	powers that are not granted to the national government that belong to (are reserved for) the states and the people
services	a government system or private organization that is responsible for a particular type of activity, or for providing a particular thing that people need examples: transportation and public works, sanitation, solid and liquid waste management
state government	the government of an individual state
Tenth Amendment	the final amendment in the Bill of Rights states: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

**Teacher Note: While the clarification that included the asterisk vocabulary was removed in the updated standards, inclusion of these terms is still necessary for mastery of this benchmark as a whole. The terms remain in SS.7.CG.3.4, so if you have already taught SS.7.CG.3.4 then these should be treated as a review.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Civics 360 Resources](#)

Florida Department of Education's Civic Literacy Reading List

- *Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution* by Linda R. Monk

ANSWER KEYS

Sample Answers: Morning Timeline activity sheet

Sample Answers: State Power: Got A Reservation? Guided Notes

Sample Answers: Excerpts from Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution activity sheet

Sample Answers: State & Local Government activity sheet

National, State, and Local Services slides (answers in Speaker Notes)

Written Response: Sample Scoring Rubric

SOURCES

State Power: Got a Reservation? student reading from iCivics:

<https://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/state-power-got-reservation>, Accessed October 2022

Excerpts from Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: <http://constitutioncenter.org/>

The Florida Constitution: <https://www.flsenate.gov/laws/constitution#A5>

State & Local Government Services - <https://www.myflorida.com/>

Florida Municipal Officials' Manual:

<https://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/research-resources/florida-municipal-officials-manual>

Florida Association of Counties Fact Sheet: <https://www.fl-counties.com/about-floridas-counties/videos-psas/>

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids:

<https://bensguide.gpo.gov/journey-person-federal-versus-state-government>