

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
SS.4.CG.2.2 <i>Explain the importance of voting, public service, and volunteerism to the state and nation.</i>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will explain how voting, public service, and volunteerism contribute to the preservation of the republic. ■ Students will discuss different types of public service and volunteerism.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
3rd Grade	<p>SS.3.CG.2.1 Describe how citizens demonstrate civility, cooperation, volunteerism, and other civic virtues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will identify examples including, but not limited to, food drives, book drives, community clean-ups, voting, blood donation drives, volunteer fire departments, and neighborhood watch programs. <p>SS.3.CG.2.2 Describe the importance of voting in elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize that it is every citizen’s responsibility to vote. ● Students will explain the importance of voting in a republic.
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
5th Grade	<p>SS.5.CG.2.3 Analyze how the U.S. Constitution expanded civic participation over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will describe how the U.S. Constitution expanded voting rights through amendments and legislation including, but not limited to, the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. <p>SS.5.CG.2.4 Evaluate the importance of civic duties and responsibilities to the preservation of the United States’ constitutional republic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will explain what it means for the United States to be a constitutional republic. ● Students will identify duties (e.g., obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury) and responsibilities (e.g., voting, keeping informed on public issues) that citizens are expected to fulfill. ● Students will explain what could happen to the United States if citizens did not fulfill their civic duties and responsibilities.

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This benchmark may be taught at any time throughout the school year. ● Teaching this benchmark after SS.4.CG.3.2 ensures students have a deeper

foundational knowledge of local and state government.

- This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.4.CG.2.3 which addresses communicating with elected officials.
- These concepts may be paired with Florida's Resiliency Standard HE.4.R.3.1.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ Explain and discuss can mean: write, tell, describe, or justify
- ◆ Preservation means to protect or keep
- ◆ A constitutional republic is a form of government in which there is democratic voting, but governmental power is limited by the existence of a constitution that protects the rights of citizens
- ◆ To be eligible to vote in local, state, and national elections one must meet eligibility criteria: citizenship requirements, residency requirements, age requirements, and registration requirements
- ◆ Voting is not mandatory
- ◆ Public service refers to activities/work that focuses on people's needs and the importance of the public good
- ◆ Individuals who engage in public service work are called public servants
- ◆ Volunteerism is the act of helping individuals or groups with a need
- ◆ Civic virtues are described as the good characteristics, attitudes, practices, and activities of participants in a political system
- ◆ In the United States, citizenship comes with rights, obligations, and responsibilities
- ◆ Many of the Founders believed citizens must have certain civic virtues (e.g. courage, fairness, compassion, self-discipline, tolerance, wisdom, contributions, humility, integrity, justice, perseverance, respect, responsibility, tolerance, etc.) in order for the U.S. Constitution and system of government they established to work

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ Concepts/definitions of voting, public service, and volunteerism
- ◆ Different types of public service and volunteerism
- ◆ How voting, public service, and volunteerism are important to the preservation of the republic

→ Examples:

- ◆ Public Service
 - Law enforcement, healthcare, education, transportation, military, government positions, social work, etc.
 - Importance: keeping the community safe, addressing community problems as quickly as possible, and providing for basic needs
- ◆ Volunteerism
 - Food drives, book drives, community clean-ups, blood donation drives, volunteer fire departments, neighborhood watch programs, etc.
 - Importance: improving the community, keeping citizens safe, helping others, civic virtue, etc.
- ◆ Voting:
 - If requirements are met, citizens may vote in local, state, and national

- elections
- Voting is a civic duty and part of the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Importance: civic duty, every vote makes a difference, elected officials represent the people, many people fought for the right to vote, etc.

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on civic virtues:

1. [The Atlantic: A Republic. If We Can Keep It](#)
2. [Bill of Rights Institute: Civic Virtues](#)

Information on voting:

1. [National Geographic: Voting](#)
2. [The White House: Elections & Voting](#)

Information on public service and volunteerism:

1. [History of American Volunteerism](#)
2. [Americorps](#)
3. [Volunteer Florida](#)
4. [Florida State Parks Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Information on a republic:

1. [Britannica: Democracy or Republic](#)

Information on civics education and the necessary components for the creation of the civic-minded citizenry:

1. [Florida State Statute 6A-1.09411](#)