

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK

SS.4.CG.2.3 *Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the state level.*

BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will identify their local state senator and state representative.
- Students will identify appropriate methods for communicating with elected officials.
- Students will recognize that Florida has a representative government.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

3rd Grade

- S.S.3.CG.3.1 Explain how the U.S. and Florida Constitutions establish the structure, function, powers, and limits of government.
- Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution establish the framework for national and state government.
 - Students will recognize how government is organized at the national level (e.g., three branches of government).
 - Students will provide examples of people who make and enforce rules and laws in the United States (e.g., congress and president) and Florida (e.g., state legislature and governor).
- SS.3.CG.3.2 Describe the importance of voting in elections.
- Students will recognize that it is every citizen's responsibility to vote.
 - Students will explain the importance of voting in a republic legislature and governor).

WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

5th Grade

- SS.5.CG.2.5 Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at a national level.
- Students will identify Florida's U.S. senators and the U.S. representative for their district.
 - Students will discuss the constitutional qualifications for office, term length, authority, duties, activities, and compensation.
- SS.5.CG.1.3 Discuss arguments for adopting a representative form of government.
- Students will explain what is meant by a representative government.

TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point in the school year.
- Teaching this benchmark alongside SS.4. CG.3.1 and SS.4.CG.3.2 may make content mastery more achievable for students.
- This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.4.CG.2.1 which also addresses

communicating with elected representatives.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ The benchmark cognitive demand is a lower DOK with identify and recognize
- ◆ Identify and recognize can mean: match, connect, list, or name
- ◆ A representative government involves electing officials to represent citizens' ideas and concerns in government instead of each citizen participating directly in every decision made
- ◆ When identifying state senators and state representatives, ensure the most current information is utilized
- ◆ State senators and state representatives form the legislative branch
- ◆ The function of the legislative branch is to make laws
- ◆ Florida has 40 state senate districts, so the state senate has 40 state senators (1 per district) who serve a four year term (limited to 2 terms under the state constitution)
- ◆ Florida has 120 house districts, so the state house of representatives has 120 representatives (1 per district) who serve a two year term (limited to 4 terms under the state constitution)
- ◆ When identifying students' state senator and state representative it will be based on their residential address
- ◆ The people who serve as Florida state senators and state representatives are different people than U.S. senators and U.S. representatives

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ Florida has a representative government
- ◆ Each students' state senator and state representative
- ◆ Appropriate methods to communicate with elected officials

→ Examples:

- ◆ Florida's Representative Government:
 - "We the People" (people grant the government its power)
 - Elections/Voting
 - Elected officials in various state government offices (governor, state senators, state representatives, etc.)
- ◆ Communicating with elected officials:
 - Writing letters, calling, visiting, speaking at meetings, etc.
- ◆ Florida Legislature
 - State Senators
 - State Representatives

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on contacting elected officials:

1. [Berkeley Library: Contacting Officials Tips](#)
2. [Florida State Senate: Effective Communication](#)
3. [Florida Department of State: Contacting Elected Officials](#)

Information on Florida Senators and Representatives:

1. [Florida House: Representative List](#)
2. [Florida Senate: Representative List](#)
3. [Florida State Senate District Map](#)
4. [Florida State House District Map](#)
5. [Ballotpedia: Florida House of Representatives](#)

Information on representative government:

1. [Representative Government Graphic](#)
2. [Britannica: Representative Government](#)