



## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

### BENCHMARK

**SS.4.CG.3.2** *Compare the structure, functions, and processes of local and state government.*

### BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will identify how government is organized at the local and state level including, but not limited to, legislative branch (e.g., legislature, city/county commission), executive branch (e.g., governor, mayor), and judicial branch (e.g., county and circuit courts).

### WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

3rd Grade	<p>SS.3.CG.3.2 Recognize that the government has local, state, and national levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will recognize that each level of government has its own unique structure and responsibilities.</li> <li>● Students will distinguish between the responsibilities of the local, state, and national governments in the United States.</li> </ul>
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### WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

5th Grade	<p>SS.5.CG.3.1 Describe the organizational structure and powers of the national government as defined in Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will identify legislative, executive, and judicial branch functions of the U.S. government as defined in Articles I, II, &amp; III of the U.S. Constitution.</li> <li>● Students will explain why the Constitution divides the national government into three branches.</li> </ul> <p>SS.5.CG.3.6 Explain the relationship between state and national governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will define federalism as it applies to the United States.</li> <li>● Students will provide examples of powers granted to the national government and those reserved to the states.</li> <li>● Students will provide examples of cooperation between the U.S. and Florida governments.</li> </ul>
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### TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point in the school year.
- Teaching this benchmark alongside SS.4.CG.1.1, SS.4.CG.2.3, and SS.4.CG.3.1 may make content mastery more achievable for students.
- Structure and function of the state level of government is addressed in both SS.4.CG.3.1 and SS.4.CG.3.2.

## UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

### → What to know:

- ◆ Compare can mean: note the similarities or differences between and differentiate
- ◆ Identify can mean: name, list, match, or write
- ◆ Structure refers to organization between branches and within branches of government
- ◆ Function refers to the roles and responsibilities of each branch of government
- ◆ Local and state government responsibilities contribute to the greatest impact on citizens' daily lives
- ◆ While each level has unique structure and functions, there are consistencies such as divisions of power, checks and balances, and voter voice
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution and Florida Constitution provide the framework for the structure, function, and responsibilities of each level of government
- ◆ Teaching each branch of government separately and then moving to comparisons allows students to more easily achieve benchmark mastery

### → Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ Review the three levels of government: local, state, and national
- ◆ Both local and state government have three branches: executive, legislative, judicial
- ◆ Structure, function, and processes of government at both the local and state level

### → Examples:

- ◆ Role of each branch of government
  - Legislative: Makes the laws
  - Executive: Enforces the laws
  - Judicial: Interprets the laws
- ◆ Florida Legislative Branch
  - Structure:
    - Two houses (bicameral), Florida House of Representatives (120 seats, 2 year terms), Florida Senate (40 seats, 4 year terms)
  - Functions:
    - Makes and passes bills, sets state budget and tax legislation with governor, power to initiate articles of impeachment
- ◆ Florida Executive Branch
  - Structure:
    - Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Agricultural Commissioner
  - Functions of Governor:
    - Sign/veto bills, fills Florida court vacancies, declares and coordinates state emergencies
  - Functions of the cabinet and agencies of the executive branch:
    - Oversees the state department/agency assigned to them
- ◆ Florida Judicial Branch
  - Structure
    - Florida Supreme Court, District Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, County Courts
  - Functions:

- Handle civil and criminal cases, hears appeals from lower courts, determines constitutionality of Florida laws
- ◆ Local (City/County) Executive Branch:
  - Structure:
    - Mayor or Manager
  - Function:
    - provides strategic direction for city/county, oversees city's main departments (fire, police, education, housing, and transportation), leads city council meetings
- ◆ Local (City/County) Legislative Branch:
  - Structure:
    - City Council/County Commissioners
  - Function:
    - host town meetings, creates new laws/rules/ordinances for the city/county pertaining to topics such as: zoning, taxes, licensing/registration
- ◆ Local (City/County) Judicial Branch:
  - All local judicial matters are handled by the State of Florida judicial branch

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on levels of government:

1. [FJCC: Structure & Function](#)

Information on Florida's State Government:

1. [Florida Constitution](#)
2. [White House: State and Local Government](#)
3. [Florida State Legislature](#)
4. [Florida Executive](#)
5. [Florida Judicial Branch](#)
6. [Florida Government Chart](#)
7. [OPPAGA: Florida Program Summary Chart](#)
8. [Florida Courts Chart](#)

Information on Local Government:

1. [Florida DOS: Local Government](#)
2. [NLC: City Councils](#)
3. [Florida Municipalities Codes and Ordinances](#)

*Note: Teachers may need to familiarize themselves with local government websites to best teach this portion of the benchmark.*