

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

### BENCHMARK

**SS.5.CG.2.5** *Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the national level.*

### BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- 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.

### WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

4th Grade	<p>SS.4.CG.2.3 Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the state level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will identify their local state senator and state representative.</li> <li>● Students will identify appropriate methods for communicating with elected officials.</li> <li>● Students will recognize that Florida has a representative government.</li> </ul>
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### WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.2.7</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.3.7</a></li> </ul>
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### TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year.
  - An election year may impact the timing in which the teacher chooses to address this benchmark.
- This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.5.CG.3.1, which addresses the legislative branch.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

- What to know:
- ◆ Identify can mean: name, associate, match, or list
  - ◆ Discuss can mean: write, explain, describe, or clarify
  - ◆ National government and federal government are synonymous in this context
  - ◆ The U.S. Constitution provides the framework for the structure, function, and

- ◆ processes of each level of government
- ◆ The U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives form the legislative branch of government
- ◆ The U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives spend a majority of their time working in Washington, D.C. at the nation's Capitol Building
- ◆ The people who serve as U.S. Senators and Representatives are different people than Florida's state senators and representatives

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ Review levels and branches of government
- ◆ How U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives elected from Florida represent the citizens of the state
- ◆ The current U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives that represent Florida
- ◆ The qualifications for office, term length, authority, duties, activities, and compensation according to the U.S. Constitution

→ Examples:

◆ U.S. Senators:

- When identifying the two U.S. Senators that represent Florida in Washington D.C., ensure the most current information is utilized
- Constitutional Qualifications:
  - Two U.S. Senators per state
  - Serve six year terms
  - Must be at least 30 years old, be a resident of their state, and have lived in the United States for at least nine years
  - They represent the entire state of Florida
  - There are 100 total U.S. Senators
  - Senators meet with constituents, discuss policies, debate bills, and vote on bills/pass laws, can declare war, regulate commerce, etc.
  - U.S. Senators oversee impeachment proceedings as well as confirmation or denial for judicial and ambassador appointments
  - The U.S. Senate is led by the vice president of the United States
  - There are majority party leaders and minority party leaders
  - There are three types of committees within the senate where Senators address public policy and complete the day-to-day work: standing committees, special/select committees, and joint committees
  - Senators earn \$174,000 annually with leaders earning \$193,400 annually

◆ U.S. Representatives:

- When identifying the U.S. Representatives for Florida in Washington D.C., ensure the most current information is utilized
- Constitutional Qualifications:
  - Florida has 28 U.S. Representatives
  - Two year terms
  - Representation is determined by population (Florida is divided in 28 districts)
  - Redistricting and reapportionment happens every 10 years following the census
  - Must be at least 25 years old, live in the state they represent, and have lived in the United States for at least seven years

- Representatives meet with constituents, discuss and debate bills, vote on bills/pass laws, can declare war, regulate commerce, control taxing and spending policies, etc.
  - There are 435 total House members
  - There are majority party leaders and minority party leaders
  - The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer
  - There are three types of committees within the House where Representatives address public policy and complete the day-to-day work: standing committees, special/select committees, and joint committees
  - Two committees unique to the House of Representatives are the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Rules
  - Representatives earn \$174,000 annually with leaders earning \$193,400 annually
- ◆ Florida is unique in that it is the only state with an embassy in Washington D.C., known as the Florida House on Capitol Hill. It is free and open to the public and located across the street from the Supreme Court

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on the U.S. Senate:

1. [U.S. Senate: Senators from Florida](#)
2. [Florida Senate: Redistricting Laws](#)
3. [Senate Salaries](#)
4. [Policy Circle: U.S. Senators](#)

Information on the U.S. House of Representatives:

1. [U.S. Congress: Representatives from Florida](#)
2. [Florida House in DC](#)
3. [Policy Circle: U.S. House of Representatives](#)
4. [House of Representatives: All About the House](#)

Information on constitutional requirements regarding legislators:

1. [U.S. Constitution: Legislative Branch](#)