

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - Kindergarten

## Standard 1: Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System

**SS.K.CG.1.1** Identify the purpose of rules and laws in the home and school.

- Students will define rules as standards of responsible behavior (e.g., rules for home and school).
- Students will define laws as a system of rules intended to protect people and property that are created and enforced by government (e.g., speed limit).
- Students will identify what can happen without rules and laws.

**SS.K.CG.1.2** Identify people who have the authority and power to make and enforce rules and laws.

- Students will identify authority figures in their school and community including, but not limited to, parents, teachers and law enforcement officers.

## Standard 2: Civic and Political Participation

**SS.K.CG.2.1** Describe and demonstrate the characteristics of being a responsible citizen.

- Students will identify examples of responsible citizenship.
- Students will demonstrate that conflicts can be resolved in ways that are consistent with being a responsible citizen.
- Students will explain why it is important to take responsibility for one's actions.

**SS.K.CG.2.2** Describe ways for groups to make decisions.

- Students will practice decision-making in small and large groups through voting, taking turns, class meetings and discussion.
- Students will identify examples of responsible decisions.

**SS.K.CG.2.3** Define patriotism as the allegiance to one's country.

- Students will identify patriotic holidays and observances (e.g., American Founders Month, Celebrate Freedom Week, Constitution Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Medal of Honor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veterans Day).
- Students will recognize that the Pledge of Allegiance is an oath that affirms American values and freedom.
- Students will identify "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" as the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SS.K.CG.2.4** Recognize symbols that represent the United States.

- Students will recognize the American flag, the bald eagle and the U.S. President as symbols that represent the United States.

**SS.K.CG.2.5** Recognize symbols that represent Florida.

- Students will recognize Florida's state flag and state nickname ("The Sunshine State") as symbols that represent the state.

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - First Grade

## Standard 1: Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System

**SS.1.CG.1.1** Explain the purpose of rules and laws in the home, school and community.

- Students will explain the role that rules and laws play in their daily life.
- Students will explain the difference between rules and laws.

**SS.1.CG.1.2** Describe how the absence of rules and laws impacts individuals and the community.

- Students will provide examples of rules and laws in their lives and in the community.
- Students will recognize that disorder, injustice and harm to people can occur when there is an absence of rules and laws.

## Standard 2: Civic and Political Participation

**SS.1.CG.2.1** Explain the rights and responsibilities students have in the school community.

- Students will identify the rights (e.g., treated with respect, physically safe learning environment) and responsibilities (e.g., come to school on time, do not damage school property) students have as members of their school community.
- Students will define rights as freedoms protected by laws in society and protected by rules in the school community.
- Students will define responsibilities as things citizens should do to benefit the community.

**SS.1.CG.2.2** Describe the characteristics of citizenship in the school community.

- Students will identify characteristics of responsible citizenship (e.g., respect others' property, treat people with dignity, care for environment, treat animals with kindness).
- Students will identify characteristics of irresponsible citizenship (e.g., damaging school property, bullying).

**SS.1.CG.2.3** Recognize ways citizens can demonstrate patriotism.

- Students will discuss appropriate ways to show respect during the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem (e.g., stand at attention, face the flag, pause conversations).
- Students will discuss how to show respect for the American flag (e.g., how to properly display and dispose of the American flag).
- Students will discuss how to demonstrate patriotism during patriotic holidays and observances (e.g., American Founders Month, Celebrate Freedom Week, Constitution Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Medal of Honor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veterans Day).

**SS.1.CG.2.4** Recognize symbols and individuals that represent the United States.

- Students will recognize the national motto ("In God We Trust") and "We the People" as symbols that represent the United States.
- Students will recognize Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Daniel Webster and Martin Luther King Jr. as individuals who represent the United States.

**SS.1.CG.2.5** Recognize symbols and individuals that represent Florida.

- Students will recognize that the state motto ("In God We Trust") and the state day (Pascua Florida Day) are symbols that represent Florida.
- Students will identify the current Florida governor and recognize the governor as an individual who represents the state.

## Standard 3: Structure and Functions of Government

**SS.1.CG.3.1** Recognize that the United States and Florida have Constitutions.

- Students will define a constitution as an agreed-upon set of rules or laws.
- Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution starts with "We the People."

**SS.1.CG.3.2** Explain responsible ways for individuals and groups to make decisions.

- Students will demonstrate characteristics of responsible decision-making.
- Students will explain how multiple perspectives contribute to the unity of the United States.

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - Second Grade

## Standard 1: Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System

**SS.2.CG.1.1** Explain why people form governments.

- Students will explain the role of laws in government.
- Students will define and provide examples of laws at the state and national levels.
- Students will use scenarios to identify the impact of government on daily life.

**SS.2.CG.1.2** Explain how the U.S. government protects the liberty and rights of American citizens.

- Students will recognize that the equal rights of citizens are protected by the U.S. Constitution.

## Standard 2: Civic and Political Participation

**SS.2.CG.2.1** Explain what it means to be a U.S. citizen.

- Students will recognize that there are multiple ways to obtain citizenship.

**SS.2.CG.2.2** Describe the characteristics of responsible citizenship at the local and state levels.

- Students will identify characteristics of responsible citizenship (e.g., peaceable assembly, obeying the law, community involvement).
- Students will identify characteristics of irresponsible citizenship (e.g., disorderly assembly, breaking the law).
- Students will describe the contributions of the diverse individuals and groups that contribute to civic life in the United States and Florida.

**SS.2.CG.2.3** Explain how citizens demonstrate patriotism.

- Students will explain why reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily is an act of patriotism.
- Students will explain the importance of recognizing patriotic holidays or observances (e.g., American Founders Month, Celebrate Freedom Week, Constitution Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Medal of Honor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veterans Day).

**SS.2.CG.2.4** Recognize symbols, individuals and documents that represent the United States.

- Students will recognize the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court building and the Statue of Liberty as symbols that represent the United States.
- Students will recognize Rosa Parks and Thomas Jefferson as individuals who represent the United States.
- Students will recognize the Declaration of Independence as a document that represents the United States.

**SS.2.CG.2.5** Recognize symbols, individuals and documents that represent Florida.

- Students will recognize the Florida State Capitol and the Everglades National Park as symbols of Florida.
- Students will recognize Andrew Jackson and Marjory Stoneman Douglas as individuals who represent Florida.
- Students will recognize the Florida Constitution as a document that represents Florida.

## Standard 3: Structure and Functions of Government

**SS.2.CG.3.1** Identify the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land.

- Students will recognize that the United States has a written constitution.
- Students will identify the United States as a constitutional republic.

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - Third Grade

## Standard 1: Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System

**SS.3.CG.1.1** Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes the purpose and fulfills the need for government.

- Students will explain the purpose of and need for government in terms of protection of rights, organization, security and services.

**SS.3.CG.1.2** Describe how the U.S. government gains its power from the people.

- Students will recognize what is meant by “We the People” and “consent of the governed.”
- Students will identify sources of consent (e.g., voting and elections).
- Students will recognize that the U.S. republic is governed by the “consent of the governed” and government power is exercised through representatives of the people.

## Standard 2: Civic and Political Participation

**SS.3.CG.2.1** Describe how citizens demonstrate civility, cooperation, volunteerism and other civic virtues.

- 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.

**SS.3.CG.2.2** 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.

**SS.3.CG.2.3** Explain the history and meaning behind patriotic holidays and observances.

- Students will identify patriotic holidays and observances to include, but not limited to, American Founders Month, Celebrate Freedom Week, Constitution Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Medal of Honor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veterans Day.

**SS.3.CG.2.4** Recognize symbols, individuals, documents and events that represent the United States.

- Students will recognize Mount Rushmore, Uncle Sam and the Washington Monument as symbols that represent the United States.
- Students will recognize James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Booker T. Washington and Susan B. Anthony as individuals who represent the United States.
- Students will recognize the U.S. Constitution as a document that represents the United States.
- Students will recognize the Constitutional Convention (May 1787 – September 1787) and the signing of the U.S. Constitution (September 17, 1787) as events that represent the United States.

**SS.3.CG.2.5** Recognize symbols, individuals, documents and events that represent the State of Florida.

- Students will recognize the Great Seal of the State of Florida as a symbol that represents the state.
- Students will recognize William Pope Duval, William Dunn Moseley and Josiah T. Walls as individuals who represent Florida.
- Students will identify the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution as a document that represents Florida.
- Students will recognize that Florida became the 27th state of the United States on March 3, 1845.

## Standard 3: Structure and Functions of Government

**SS.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** Recognize that government has local, state and national levels.

- Students will recognize that each level of government has its own unique structure and responsibilities.
- Students will distinguish between the responsibilities of the local, state and national governments in the United States.

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - Fourth Grade

## Standard 1: Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System

**SS.4.CG.1.1** Explain why the Florida government has a written Constitution.

- Students will recognize that every state has a state constitution.
- Students will explain the relationship between a written constitution, the government established and the citizens.

## Standard 2: Civic and Political Participation

**SS.4.CG.2.1** Identify and describe how citizens work with local and state governments to solve problems.

- Students will explain how public issues, such as taxation, roads, zoning and schools, impact citizens' daily lives.
- Students will describe how citizens can help solve community and state problems (e.g., attending government meetings, communicating with their elected representatives).

**SS.4.CG.2.2** Explain the importance of voting, public service and volunteerism to the state and nation.

- 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.

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

- 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.

## Standard 3: Structure and Functions of Government

**SS.4.CG.3.1** Explain the structure and functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government in Florida.

- Students will compare the powers of Florida's three branches of government.
- Students will explain how the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution protects the rights of citizens.

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

- 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).

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - Fifth Grade

## Standard 1: Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System

- SS.5.CG.1.1** Recognize that the Declaration of Independence affirms that every U.S. citizen has certain unalienable rights.
- Students will identify the grievances detailed in the Declaration of Independence.
  - Students will describe the idea of “unalienable rights” in the Declaration of Independence as it relates to each citizen.
  - Students will discuss the consequences of governments not recognizing that citizens have certain unalienable rights.
- SS.5.CG.1.2** Explain how and why the U.S. government was created by the U.S. Constitution.
- Students will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
  - Students will explain the goals of the 1787 Constitutional Convention.
  - Students will describe why compromises were made during the writing of the Constitution and identify compromises (e.g., Great Compromise, the Three-Fifths Compromise, the Electoral College).
  - Students will identify Federalist and Anti-Federalist arguments supporting and opposing the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
- SS.5.CG.1.3** Discuss arguments for adopting a representative form of government.
- Students will explain what is meant by a representative government.
- SS.5.CG.1.4** Describe the history, meaning and significance of the Bill of Rights.
- Students will describe how concerns about individual rights led to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution.

## Standard 2: Civic and Political Participation

- SS.5.CG.2.1** Discuss the political ideas of Patriots, Loyalists and other colonists about the American Revolution.
- Students will describe the political philosophy of American Patriots and why those ideas led them to declare independence from the British Empire.
  - Students will explain why colonists would choose to side with the British during the American Revolution.
  - Students will examine motivations for the decision to not take a side during the American Revolution.
- SS.5.CG.2.2** Compare forms of political participation in the colonial period to today.
- Students will describe forms of political participation in the colonial period (e.g., serving on juries, militia service, participation in elections for government).
  - Students will identify ways citizens participate in the political process today (e.g., serving on juries, participation in elections for government).
- SS.5.CG.2.3** Analyze how the U.S. Constitution expanded civic participation over time.
- 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.
- SS.5.CG.2.4** Evaluate the importance of civic duties and responsibilities to the preservation of the United States’ constitutional republic.
- 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.
- SS.5.CG.2.5** Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the 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.2.6** Explain symbols and documents that represent the United States.
- Students will recognize the Great Seal of the United States and the Star-Spangled Banner as symbols that represent the United States.
  - Students will recognize the U.S. Constitution (specifically the Bill of Rights) and the Emancipation Proclamation as documents that represent the United States.

# Civics and Government Benchmarks - Fifth Grade

## Standard 3: Structure and Functions of Government

**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.

- Students will identify legislative, executive and judicial branch functions of the U.S. government as defined in Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution.
- Students will explain why the Constitution divides the national government into three branches.

**SS.5.CG.3.2** Analyze how the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights limit the power of the national government and protect citizens from an oppressive government.

- Students will recognize examples of what to include, but not be limited to, popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, the amendment process, and the fundamental rights of citizens in the Bill of Rights.

**SS.5.CG.3.3** Explain the role of the court system in interpreting law and settling conflicts.

- Students will explain why the U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court in the system.
- Students will explain why both the United States and Florida have a Supreme Court.

**SS.5.CG.3.4** Describe the process for amending the U.S. Constitution.

- Students will explain why the U.S. Constitution includes the amendment process.
- Students will identify amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

**SS.5.CG.3.5** Explain how the U.S. Constitution influenced the Florida Constitution.

- Students will identify the purpose of a constitution (e.g., provides a framework for government, limits government authority, protects the rights of the people).
- Students will recognize the basic outline of the U.S. and Florida Constitutions (both have articles, amendments and preambles).

**SS.5.CG.3.6** Explain the relationship between the state and national governments.

- Students will define federalism as it applies to the United States.
- Students will provide examples of powers granted to the national government and those reserved to the states.
- Students will provide examples of cooperation between the U.S. and Florida governments.