

**BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
Learner Objectives**

**PHILOSOPHY**

Social Studies represents critical academic disciplines relevant to all citizens. Social Studies teaching and learning are powerful when they are meaningful, integrative, challenging, and active. The program should consider and address controversial issues while providing reflective development of concern for the common good and the application of democratic social values. The social studies program should relate to the age, maturity, and concerns of the student and help students connect social studies content to their lives.

**LEARNER OBJECTIVES**

- I. I. The learner will develop an understanding of historical perspective and define issues based on analysis and decision making.**
- II. II. The learner will develop an understanding of individual interests and how these relate to the common good and social order.**
- III. III. The learner will demonstrate an understanding of relevant and reliable sources of information and how to analyze, evaluate, and apply information for a specific purpose.**
- IV. IV. The learner will develop an ability to connect historical themes and events to current issues, events, and policies.**
- V. V. The learner will articulate their views based on sound evidence, while recognizing personal biases; advocate their positions as compared to those held by others; and understand that there are many acceptable answers to meaningful social studies questions.**
- VI. VI. The learner will develop an understanding of the world, national, regional, and local cultures, including Montana's indigenous nations.**

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**I. The Student will develop an understanding of historical perspective and define issues based on analysis and decision making.**

1. Apply ideas, theories, and modes of historical inquiry to analyze governmental problems and policy issues.
2. Examine the founding political theories of American government, such as those offered by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Montesquieu.
3. Explain and applying ideas, theories and modes of inquiry drawn from political science to the examination of persistent issues and social problems.
4. Analyze and explain ideas and mechanisms to meet needs and wants of citizens, regulate territory, manage conflict, establish order and security, and balance competing conceptions of just society

**II. The learner will develop an understanding of individual interests and how these relate to the common good and social order.**

5. Describe the role of the individual as a citizen in the American society.
6. Examine persistent issues involving the rights, roles, and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.
7. Analyze and explain ideas and mechanism to meet needs and wants of citizens, regulate territory, manage conflict, establish order and security, and balance competing conceptions of a just society.

**III. Student will demonstrate an understanding of relevant and reliable sources of information and how to analyze, evaluate, and apply information for a specific purpose.**

8. Locate, access, analyze, organize, synthesize, evaluate, and apply information about selected public issues identifying, describing, and evaluating multiple points of view.
9. Explore the problems and advantages of the three branches of government sharing power.
10. Explain and apply ideas, theories, and modes of inquiry drawn from political science to the examination of persistent issues and social problems.

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**IV. The learner will develop an ability to connect historical themes and events to current issues, events, and policies.**

11. Evaluate the effectiveness of public opinion in influencing and shaping public policy development and decision making.
12. Identify examples of rights and responsibilities of citizens.
13. Examine the impact of world affairs on American politics.
14. Explain the structure and purpose of government and analyzing how its powers are acquired, used, and justified.

**V. The learner will articulate their views based on sound evidence, while recognizing personal biases; advocate their positions as compared to those held by others; and understand that there are many acceptable answers to meaningful social studies questions.**

15. Locate, access, analyze, organize, synthesize, evaluate, and apply information about selected public issues identifying, describing, and evaluating multiple points of view.
16. Apply ideas, theories, and modes of historical inquiry to analyze governmental problems and policy issues.

**VI. The learner will develop an understanding of the world, national, regional, and local cultures, including Montana's indigenous nations.**

17. Examine the impact of world affairs on American politics.
18. giving examples of and explaining how the United States government attempts to achieve its stated ideas at home and abroad.
19. Construct reasoned judgments about specific culture; responses to persistent human issues.
20. Explain how local, state, and national governments interrelate and exert power over citizens.