



Social Studies Civic Engagement Standards

Civic engagement is one of the fundamental purposes of education. It is vital that public schools fulfill their civic mission, the preparation of young people for participation in America's democratic republic. The progress of our communities, state, nation, and world rest upon the preparation of young people to collaboratively and deliberatively address problems, to defend their own rights and the rights of others, and to balance personal interests with the common good. **Social studies classrooms are the ideal locations to foster civic virtue, consider current issues, learn how to act civilly toward others, build a civic identity, and promote awareness of global issues.** These skills, habits, and qualities of character will prepare students to accept responsibility for preserving and defending their liberties.

To reach these ends, students should have ample opportunities to:

- **Engage** in deliberative, collaborative, and civil dialogue regarding historical and current issues.
- **Identify** local, state, national or international problems; **consider** solutions to these problems; and **share** their ideas with appropriate public and/or private stakeholders.
- **Apply** knowledge of governmental structure, historical concepts, geographic interrelationships, and economic principles to analyze and explain current events.
- **Develop** and **demonstrate** values that sustain America's democratic republic, such as open-mindedness, engagement, honest, problem-solving, responsibility, diligence, resilience, empathy, self-control, and cooperation.
- (US History 1, US History 2, US Government and Citizenship) **Participate** in dialogue regarding American exceptionalism, in the sense of the special character of the United States as a uniquely free nation based on democratic ideals and personal liberty.