

NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS CURRICULUM
SOCIAL STUDIES
United States Government



United States Government Curriculum Overview

The [Indiana Academic Standards](#) define what students should know, understand, and be able to do at grade level beginning in kindergarten and progressing through grade twelve. These standards serve as the foundation to our curriculum in Noblesville Schools but are not a curriculum on their own. The Indiana Academic Standards are supported through grade-level, content-area curriculum maps and a selection of curriculum materials to support these maps. These curriculum maps and materials are aligned to the Indiana Academic standards while also providing the conditions necessary to be responsive to the needs of all learners. Therefore, the Noblesville Schools' curriculum is constantly undergoing periodic and systematic analysis and revision.

High school social studies standards, regardless of course level or content, have a shared goal of developing students' skills in critical thinking, inquiry, research, and participation in a democratic society. At the high school level, social studies standards have five content areas that make up the core curriculum: history, government, geography, economics, and individuals, society and culture (psychology, sociology, and anthropology). One of these content areas is generally the focus of a course while the other content areas play a more supporting role.

The content of *United States Government* covers not only the principles of democratic society and the Constitution, but the responsible and effective practices of citizens as well:

“Students examine how the United States Constitution protects rights and provides the structure and functions of various levels of government. How the United States interacts with other nations and the government’s role in world affairs will be examined. [...] Using primary and secondary resources, students articulate, evaluate, and defend positions on political issues. As a result, they will be able to explain the role of individuals and groups in government, politics, and civic activities and the need for civic and political engagement of citizens in the United States” (Indiana Department of Education, 2020).

[The Social Studies Indiana Academic Standards for US Government](#) serve as the foundation of our curriculum. These standards are supported in Noblesville Schools through a department-curated list of primary and secondary sources. For the most relevant and up-to-date information on your child’s social studies curriculum pacing, please [enroll as a Parent Observer on Canvas](#).

NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS CURRICULUM
SOCIAL STUDIES
United States Government



Units of Study

Table 1: Units of Study for United States Government

Unit	Duration	Transfer Goals	Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions <i>May include but are not limited to the following:</i>
Unit 1: The Why and Context of Government	4 weeks	Recognize the relevance of Constitutional principles to their lives	The foundations of our present American Government are based on past experiences.	How do individuals' perspectives have an impact on governmental decisions?
Unit 2: Political Behavior and Citizenship	4 weeks	Be informed, participatory citizens.	Citizens' influence in public affairs is important in the governmental process.	1. How are my views about citizenship shaped by my family values, personal values, media, and prejudices? 2. How fair and effective is the electoral process? 3. How do political parties, interest groups, and the media have an impact on policy making? 4. What does it mean to be an engaged citizen in civic and political life?
Unit 3: The Three Branches of Government	4-5 weeks	Make contact with public officials that are responsible for creating, enforcing, and interpreting laws in the U.S. and Indiana.	Federal, state, and local government is based on constitutional principles	1. What makes a successful legislature? 2. What makes a good chief executive? 3. What should be the role of the judicial branch?
Unit 4: The U.S. & Other Countries	2 weeks	Understand and analyze the complexity of international relations.	The actions of the U.S. government have an impact on other nations	How should the United States and other countries interact in world affairs?