

## United States Government Standards

Key Concept	Standards
<b>Foundations of Democracy</b>	<p><b>Standard 1:</b> Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental historical and philosophical principles and ideas that led to the development of the American constitutional democracy.</p>
	<p><b>Enduring Understanding:</b> The principles of American democracy are reflected in the founding documents and actions of federal, state, and local government entities. The interpretation and application of American democratic principles continue to evolve and be debated.</p>
	<p><b>The student will:</b></p>
	<p><b>USG.1.ER</b>      Analyze the philosophical influences on core political principles in the American constitutional democracy.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the historical and philosophical origins of American government and the purpose of government in a democracy. This includes inquiry into the legacies of Greek democracy and Roman republicanism, as well as the impact of Enlightenment thinkers on the formation of America’s constitutional democracy.</p>
	<p><b>USG.1.IN</b>      Interpret founding documents and principles that led to the creation of the American constitutional democracy.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the historical and philosophical origins of the American constitutional government presented in the Founding Documents, which provide the structure and framework on which the nation is governed. This indicator also encourages inquiry into the ideas that influenced the Framers of the Constitution and their contributions to the creation of the Constitution.</p>
	<p><b>USG.1.CC</b>      Analyze the major debates and compromises underlying the formation and ratification of the Constitution.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the crucial events and conflicts that led to the ratification of the United States Constitution. This indicator also encourages inquiry into the major debates and compromises at the Constitutional Convention and how economic, political, and social goals impacted the formation of the new government.</p>
	<p><b>USG.1.IP</b>      Investigate and communicate the importance of constitutional</p>

Key Concept	Standards
	<p>principles and fundamental values and apply them in abstract and real world situations.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how the American idea of constitutional government has distinctively shaped American society. Further inquiry into this indicator focuses on the extent to which the Constitution is a living document, capable of being altered over time as needed, and how these changes may personally impact students.</p>
Government Structure	<p><b>Standard 2:</b> Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and functions of government at all levels in the United States.</p>
	<p><b>Enduring Understanding:</b> In the American constitutional democracy, power is widely distributed and checks prevent one branch of government from becoming too powerful and seizing powers from the other branches of government. National, state, and local governments are in positions where they must all compete and cooperate in order to govern effectively.</p>
	<p><b>The student will:</b></p>
	<p><b>USG.2.ER</b> Explain the authority, organization, purposes, and responsibilities of the three branches of government as enumerated in Articles I–III in the Constitution.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the formal and informal structure, roles, and operations of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government, including the specific powers of each branch. Additionally, this indicator promotes inquiry into the extent to which the three branches are interdependent.</p>
	<p><b>USG.2.IN</b> Analyze how power and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited in the American constitutional government.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how the principles of American democracy are reflected in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as in the organization and actions of federal, state, and local governmental entities. Further inquiry encourages discourse on how the interpretation and application of American democratic principles continue to evolve over time.</p>
<p><b>USG.2.CC</b> Explain how governments in South Carolina are organized and how they function in the American constitutional government.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how state</p>	

Key Concept	Standards
	<p>and local governments are organized and how they function under the American constitutional government. This indicator encourages further inquiry into how federalism provides for several levels of government supported by many state and local officials.</p> <p><b>USG.2.IP</b> Synthesize why the rule of law has a central place in American society and the impact it has on the American political system.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how the U.S. Constitution shapes the actions of governments and politics, draws its authority from the people, and defines the extent and limits of government power and the rights of citizens. This indicator also promotes inquiry into the reasons particular laws have been passed and the role of the federal and state judiciary system to resolve arising controversies.</p>
<b>The Political Process</b>	<b>Standard 3:</b> Demonstrate an understanding of the political process in determining and shaping public policy and the political climate in the United States.
	<b>Enduring Understanding:</b> American political beliefs are shaped by an understanding of founding principles, core values, and changing demographics that in turn shape one’s belief about government and ideological trends related to public policy. Governing is achieved through an individual's participation in government both directly and indirectly which results in multiple avenues for influence on the policy making process.
	<b>The student will:</b>
	<p><b>USG.3.ER</b> Describe the policy making process in the American constitutional government.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into public policy as a result of interactions among various stakeholders, institutions, and processes. This indicator also promotes inquiry into how public policy is made at all levels of government and how investigations of these policy networks in domestic, economic, and foreign policy shows relationships to federalism, the impact of interest groups, parties, and elections.</p>
<p><b>USG.3.IN</b> Interpret how American political beliefs are shaped by the founding principles, core values, and changing demographics of America, and how those beliefs led to the creation of ideological trends which affect public policy over time.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the variety of beliefs that individual citizens hold about their government, their</p>	

Key Concept	Standards
	<p>leaders, and the United States political system in general and how those beliefs are formed and evolve over time. The indicator also promotes inquiry into how citizen beliefs about government are shaped by a variety of factors and ultimately leads to political ideologies that shape and influence public debates and choices in the American constitutional government.</p> <p><b>USG.3.CC</b> Investigate the role of linkage institutions (i.e. media, interest groups, political parties), and explain how they shape public agenda and opinion.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the organizations and mechanisms that allow citizens to indirectly organize and communicate their interests and concerns which influence the public agenda and public policy.</p> <p><b>USG.3.IP</b> Explain how the electoral process works in federal elections and the effects those elections have on U.S. government.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how to gauge the fairness and effectiveness of the electoral process in the U.S. and the outcomes elections have on the U.S. government. This indicator was also developed to prompt inquiry into the historic struggles over the extension of suffrage and the impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules.</p>
<b>Citizenship</b>	<p><b>Standard 4:</b> Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities associated with citizenship in the United States.</p> <p><b>Enduring Understanding:</b> A strong constitutional democracy requires active participation on behalf of the people living under its authority. Knowledge of how to become a citizen, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and an understanding of how to participate in the political process helps to create civic engagement and preserve the American constitutional government.</p> <p><b>The student will:</b></p> <p><b>USG.4.ER</b> Describe the criteria and process for immigration to and citizenship in the U.S., and explain how the U.S. has expanded and limited the concept of citizenship over time.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how individuals become citizens in the U.S. and how the U.S. has expanded and limited citizenship over time. Further, examination promotes inquiry into the rights and responsibilities held by citizens of the U.S.</p>

Key Concept	Standards
	<p><b>USG.4.IN</b> Distinguish between various economic, personal, and political rights of citizens in the U.S., and how these rights can sometimes conflict with each other.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the rights the Constitution protects and the responsibilities citizens have through active participation to ensure those rights for themselves and future generations. This indicator also promotes inquiry into how the Constitution of the United States, Bill of Rights, and additional amendments emphasize liberty and individual rights and how these rights often conflict with each other.</p>
	<p><b>USG.4.CC</b> Analyze contemporary issues and governmental responses at various levels in terms of how they have provided equal protection under the law and equal access to society’s opportunities and public facilities.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how individual rights have evolved through social movements, constitutional provisions, and landmark legislation. Further investigation prompts inquiry into how marginalized Americans have struggled and continue to push for equality and expanded rights.</p>
	<p><b>USG.4.IP</b> Describe and evaluate the ways citizens can participate in the political process at the local, state, national, and global levels.</p> <p>This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the responsibilities associated with citizenship in the United States and the importance of those responsibilities in a democratic society. This indicator also promotes inquiry into the function of civic participation in addressing public issues and the importance of discussing issues and making judgements with balanced information, evidence, civility, respect, and fairness.</p>