

Nevada Social Studies Standards



The Nevada Social Studies Civics Content Standards, Grade 12, state the need for all students to master “the skills necessary to meet the demands required of a 21st century U.S. citizen.”

The Civic Standards of the Nevada Social Studies Standards, are designed to

- ❖ create knowledgeable citizens who will participate in political life and be committed to the fundamental values and principles of democracy;
- ❖ provide students with a basic understanding of political philosophy, politics and government, and how democracy is maintained in an increasingly diverse society;
- ❖ provide in-depth study of our political system including the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government at the local, state, and national levels as well as the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.

In SIRS’ study of the Nevada Social Studies Standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed.

SIRS Interactive Citizenship’s content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking and writing skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government addresses the concepts taught in **Nevada’s Grade 12, Civics Course**. It presents a framework for understanding America’s ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen’s role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to develop an understanding of values and principles of American Constitutional democracy by accessing primary sources, such as biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches, and links to related articles and Web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students are developing the citizenship, knowledge and skills that are deemed necessary by the Nevada Social Studies Standards.

<http://www.nde.state.nv.us/sca/standards/standardsfiles/social/index.html#civics> [2001, October 23]



Nevada Social Studies Standards
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



Civics Content Standards, Grade 12

1.0: Rules and Law

Students know why society needs rules, laws, and governments.

Rules and Law

1.12.1 Explain the concept of the rule of law in the establishment of the U.S. Constitution.

- Chapter 1, The Power of Government, contrasts the “rule of law” and the “rule of man” and provides a link to the writings of Voltaire who championed the “rule of law” that is embodied in the U.S. Constitution.

Documents

1.12.2 Explain the influence of social contract theory, natural rights philosophy, and republicanism in the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution.

- Chapter 1 discusses the ideas of John Locke and Jean Jacque Rousseau on social contract theory, natural rights and the meaning of republicanism. Historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation, are reviewed and links to their full text are provided.
- Chapter 3 outlines the U.S. Constitution and provides a link to its text.

1.12.3 Describe the historic influences on early U.S. documents, such as:

- Greek law
- Magna Carta
- Iroquois League

- Chapter 1 discusses tribal governments and the Enlightenment’s Greek origin of ideas. Links to historical documents, such as the Iroquois Constitution and the Magna Carta are also available.
- Chapter 16, discusses the ideas of Plato and Aristotle. Students may access Plato’s “The Republic.”

Democratic Participation

1.12.4 Analyze the role of citizen participation in U.S. civic life.

- *Chapter 14, Citizenship, discusses U.S. citizens' rights and responsibilities.*
- *Chapter 15 discusses the importance of citizen participation in local, state and national elections.*

The U.S. Constitution and Amendments

1.12.5 Identify and explain changes in the interpretation and application of the U.S. Constitution.

- *Students learn the process for amending the Constitution in Chapter 3.*
- *The Supreme Court's role in interpreting the Constitution is discussed in Chapter 7.*
- *Links to major Supreme Court decisions appear in Chapters 7 and 9.*

2.0: The U.S. Government

Students know the United States Constitution and the government it creates.

The U.S. Constitution

2.12.1 Examine the organization of the U.S. Constitution and describe the structure it creates, including the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

- *Chapter 3 describes the organization and structure of the U.S. Constitution.*
- *Chapter 2, The Federal Government, outlines the duties of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.*
- *Chapters 4 and 5 provide background information about the President and his Cabinet.*
- *Chapter 6 discusses Congress' duties and expanding responsibilities.*
- *In Chapter 7, students learn the intricate process of the judicial system.*

The Legislative Structure and Process

2.12.2 Describe the creation of laws through the legislative process.

- *Chapter 6 details the workings of Congress, including the means by which a bill becomes a law and provides links to the House and Senate Web sites.*

Legislative Powers

2.12.3 Analyze and give examples of the expansion of the national government through the application of the enumerated and implied powers.

- *Chapter 2 distinguishes between enumerated and implied powers in the U.S. Constitution and gives examples of their role in expanding the national government's power.*

The Executive Branch

2.12.4 Describe the duties of the executive branch, including:

- Cabinet/departments
- regulatory commissions
- White house staff

- In Chapters 4 and 5 students learn about the office of the President and the role the Cabinet plays in his administration. Links to Cabinet Level agencies are available.
- In Chapter 8, The Bureaucracy, regulatory agencies are discussed.

The Judicial Branch

2.12.5 Describe the jurisdiction of the federal court system and the power of judicial review.

- Chapter 7 describes the federal court system and explains the power of judicial review, providing links to major U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

The Jury System

2.12.6 Explain the importance of the jury process in a democratic society.

- Chapter 7 describes the jury's role in criminal and civil courts.
- Chapter 9, The Bill of Rights and Minority Rights, discusses citizens' rights to a trial by jury.

Checks and Balances

2.12.7 Analyze the effectiveness of checks and balances in maintaining the equal division of power.

- Chapter 2, The Federal Government, illustrates and discusses the system of checks and balances set up by the framers of the U.S. Constitution to preserve democratic rule.

3.0: National and State Government

Students can explain the relationship between the states and national government.

Division of Powers

3.12.1 Explain the U.S. Constitutional provisions for division of powers between the state and national governments (delegated, reserved, concurrent powers).

- Chapter 2 discusses delegated, reserved and concurrent powers provided in the U.S. Constitution dividing the powers of state and national governments.

Federalism

3.12.2 Provide contemporary example of federalism.

- Chapter 2 defines federalism and provides links to current articles about its contemporary significance.

Constitutional Supremacy

3.12.3 Use examples to illustrate the supremacy clause in defining the relationship between state and national governments.

*- Chapter 3 cites the Constitution's supremacy clause.
- Chapter 10, State Government, provides examples of its role in defining state and federal relations.*

4.0: The Political Process

The Political Process: Students describe the roles of political parties, interest groups, and public opinion in the democratic process.

Leaders and Elections

4.12.1 Assess the processes by which leaders are selected in the U.S. political system and analyze the role of the Electoral College system in the election of the President.

*- Chapter 15, The Vote, describes the voting process with links to the Electoral College Web page.
- Chapter 16, Political Parties and Campaigns, outlines the process by which leaders are selected in the U.S. political system.*

Political Parties

4.12.2 Analyze the roles and function of factions within political parties and the role of parties in public policy and politics.

- Chapter 16 identifies the roles and functions of political parties in the U.S. and presents a historical perspective of their necessity in a free society. Chapter 16 also defines the two-party system and the role that third parties play. Links to the Web sites for the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties are provided.

Interest Groups

4.12.3 Evaluate the significance of interest groups in the political process of a democratic society.

- Chapter 13 defines and discusses the political significance of pressure groups and lobbies.

Formation of Public Opinion

4.12.4 Analyze the role that television and other media play in the process of political persuasion.

- Students will be able to analyze the influence the media has on American political life after reading Chapter 13, Press, Polls, Lobbies.

Propaganda

4.12.5 Evaluate propaganda in both historic and current political communication.

- Chapter 13 discusses the role of propaganda in the 2001 war on terrorism and provides links to articles defining and discussing its historic significance.

Public Policy

4.12.6 Describe the process by which public policy is formed and carried out.

- Chapters 4,10 and 11 provide examples of the roles elected officials play in defining public policy at the federal, state and local levels.

5.0: Citizenship

Students know the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens and the symbols of our country.

Citizenship

5.12.1 Examine the rights of citizens and how these rights may be restricted.

- Chapters 14 and 15 contain information on citizenship and voting rights.

5.12.2 Examine the responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

- Chapter 14 describes the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship.

Symbols

5.12.3 Explain symbols and documents of a nation and how they represent its identity.

*- Chapters 1 and 3 provide links to documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
- Chapter 14, Citizenship, provides links to several Web sites presenting the history and symbolism of the U.S. flag.*

Individual Rights

5.12.4 Describe the development of the Bill of Rights and provide a contemporary application.

- The Bill of Rights is outlined in Chapter 9. Links to Web sites, such as the Civil Rights Project, and the History of Women's Suffrage, are provided.

5.12.5 Analyze the United States Constitution and its amendments in protecting individual rights, including the Fourteenth Amendment's provisions for due process and equal protection.

*- Students can read the U.S. Constitution found in Chapter 3.
- Chapter 9, The Bill of Rights and Minority Rights, explains the Bill of Rights and Civil Rights Amendments.*

Conflict and Resolution

5.12.6 Identify major conflicts in social, political, and economic life and analyze the role of compromise in the resolution of these issues.

*- Chapters 18-25 discuss political and social issues related to the environment, agriculture, health care, poverty, education, business, ethics, transportation and labor.
- Chapter 2 discusses the role that compromise played during the debates at the Constitutional Convention.
- Chapter 6 describes the importance of compromise in lawmaking.*

The Supreme Court and Individual Rights Cases

5.12.7 Describe the role of the United States Supreme Court as guardian of individual rights through the examination of landmark cases, including:

- Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
- Gideon v. Wainwright
- Miranda v. Arizona
- Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District.

- The role of the United States Supreme Court is discussed in Chapter 7, The Justice System. Links to landmark cases such as Brown v. Board of Education, Miranda v. Arizona, Gideon v. Wainwright and Tinker v. Des Moines Independent are provided.

6.0: State and Local Government

Students know the structure and functions of state and local governments.

Structure of State, Local, and Tribal Government

6.12.1 Explain the structure and function of state and local governments.

- The structure and function of state and local governments are discussed in Chapters 10 and 11.

6.12.2 Describe the unique role of tribal governments within the United States.

- Tribal governments are discussed in Chapter 1. Links to several tribal government sites are available through the National Congress of American Indians Web Page.

6.12.3 Compare and contrast the structure of the Nevada and United States Constitutions.

*- Chapter 3 fully discusses the structure of the U.S. Constitution and provides a link to its text.
- A link to the State Constitution of Nevada is provided in Chapter 10.*

Court Systems

6.12.4 Describe the differences between the local, state, and federal court systems.

- Chapters 7, 10 and 11 describe court systems at the federal, state and local levels.

7.0: Political and Economic Systems

Students explain the different political and economic systems in the world.

Comparative Political Systems

7.12.1 Summarize and evaluate the significant characteristics of the world's major political systems, including:

- monarchy
- totalitarian dictatorship
- presidential system
- parliamentary system
- communism

- In Chapter 1, the student will find descriptions and examples of monarchy, totalitarianism, and communism. Students may find a comparison between presidential and parliamentary systems.

Comparative Economic Systems

7.12.2 Define and analyze the major economic systems of the world, including:

- capitalism
- mixed economy
- socialism
- command economy

- These topics are analyzed in an upcoming interactive electronic book on Economics.

8.0: International Relations

Students know the political and economic relationship of the United States and its citizens to other nations.

From Individual to the World

8.12.1 Analyze the conflict between the U.S. policies of isolationism versus intervention in world affairs.

- Chapter 28, Foreign Policy, discusses ways that the United States interacts with other nations and provides an historical overview of the conflict between isolationism versus intervention in world affairs.

Foreign Policy

8.12.2 Identify and analyze the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy in dealing with international problems and concerns including:

- diplomacy
- economic policy
- humanitarian aid
- military intervention

- Chapter 28 defines diplomacy and explains how U.S. foreign policy is shaped and implemented.
- Chapter 27, National Defense, and Chapter 28, Foreign Policy, identify and discuss important current foreign policy issues, such as economic policy, humanitarian aid, military intervention and international terrorism.

International Organizations

8.12.3 Critique the role of international organizations, such as the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, in world affairs.

- Chapter 28 describes U.S. involvement in international organizations, such as NATO, the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.