

C. POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CITIZENSHIP: POWER, AUTHORITY, GOVERNANCE, AND RESPONSIBILITY

CONTENT STANDARD

Students in Wisconsin will learn about political science and acquire the knowledge of political systems necessary for developing individual civic responsibility by studying the history and contemporary uses of power, authority, and governance.

Rationale: Knowledge about the structures of power, authority, and governance and their evolving functions in contemporary society is essential if young citizens are to develop civic responsibility. Young people become more effective citizens and problem solvers when they know how local, state, and national governments and international organizations function and interact. In Wisconsin schools, the content, concepts, and skills related to political science may be taught in units and courses dealing with government, history, law, political science, global studies, civics, and current events.

Additional information for developing a curriculum is available in:

A Guide to Curriculum Planning in Social Studies, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (1-800-243-8782)

Curriculum Standards for Social Studies. National Council for the Social Studies Publications, P.O. Box 79078, Baltimore, MD 21279-0078 (1-800-683-0812)

National Standards for Civics and Government. The Center for Civic Education, 5146 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, CA 91302-1467 (1-800-350-4223)

▶ BY THE END OF GRADE 4 STUDENTS WILL:

- C.4.1 Identify and explain the individual's responsibilities to family, peers, and the community, including the need for civility and respect for diversity
- C.4.2 Identify the documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, in which the rights of citizens in our country are guaranteed
- C.4.3 Explain how families, schools, and other groups develop, enforce, and change rules of behavior and explain how various behaviors promote or hinder cooperation
- C.4.4 Explain the basic purpose of government in American society, recognizing the three levels of government
- C.4.5 Explain how various forms of civic action such as running for political office, voting, signing an initiative, and speaking at hearings, can contribute to the well-being of the community
- C.4.6 Locate, organize, and use relevant information to understand an issue in the classroom or school, while taking into account the viewpoints and interests of different groups and individuals



**▶ BY THE END OF GRADE 8
STUDENTS WILL:**

- C.8.1 Identify and explain democracy's basic principles, including individual rights, responsibility for the common good, equal opportunity, equal protection of the laws, freedom of speech, justice, and majority rule with protection for minority rights
- C.8.2 Identify, cite, and discuss important political documents, such as the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and landmark decisions of the Supreme Court, and explain their function in the American political system
- C.8.3 Explain how laws are developed, how the purposes of government are established, and how the powers of government are acquired, maintained, justified, and sometimes abused
- C.8.4 Describe and explain how the federal system separates the powers of federal, state, and local governments in the United States, and how legislative, executive, and judicial powers are balanced at the federal level
- C.8.5 Explain how the federal system and the separation of powers in the Constitution work to sustain both majority rule and minority rights
- C.8.6 Explain the role of political parties and interest groups in American politics
- C.8.7 Locate, organize, and use relevant information to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and advocate the position in a debate
- C.8.8 Identify ways in which advocates participate in public policy debates
- C.8.9 Describe the role of international organizations such as military alliances and trade associations

**▶ BY THE END OF GRADE 12
STUDENTS WILL:**

- C.12.1 Identify the sources, evaluate the justification, and analyze the implications of certain rights and responsibilities of citizens
- C.12.2 Describe how different political systems define and protect individual human rights
- C.12.3 Trace how legal interpretations of liberty, equality, justice, and power, as identified in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other United States Constitutional Amendments, have changed and evolved over time
- C.12.4 Explain the multiple purposes of democratic government, analyze historical and contemporary examples of the tensions between those purposes, and illustrate how governmental powers can be acquired, used, abused, or legitimized
- C.12.5 Analyze different theories of how governmental powers might be used to help promote or hinder liberty, equality, and justice, and develop a reasoned conclusion
- C.12.6 Identify and analyze significant political benefits, problems, and solutions to problems related to federalism and the separation of powers
- C.12.7 Describe how past and present American political parties and interest groups have gained or lost influence on political decision-making and voting behavior
- C.12.8 Locate, organize, analyze, and use information from various sources to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and communicate the position
- C.12.9 Identify and evaluate the means through which advocates influence public policy
- C.12.10 Identify ways people may participate effectively in community affairs and the political process
- C.12.11 Evaluate the ways in which public opinion can be used to influence and shape public policy
- C.12.12 Explain the United States' relationship to other nations and its role in international organizations, such as the United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and North American Free Trade Agreement
- C.12.13 Describe and evaluate ideas of how society should be organized and political power should be exercised, including the ideas of monarchism, anarchism, socialism, fascism, and communism; compare these ideas to those of representative democracy; and assess how such ideas have worked in practice
- C.12.14 Explain and analyze how different political and social movements have sought to mobilize public opinion and obtain governmental support in order to achieve their goals
- C.12.15 Describe and analyze the origins and consequences of slavery, genocide, and other forms of persecution, including the Holocaust
- C.12.16 Describe the evolution of movements to assert rights by people with disabilities, ethnic and racial groups, minorities, and women