

Calhoun School District
Civics Curriculum
UNIT 1

Directions: Use your understanding of the Delaware Civics Standards to evaluate the quality of Calhoun School District's civics curriculum. To what extent is it aligned with the expectations embedded within the Delaware standards? Consider alignment to the content as well as to the level of cognition i.e. understanding.

Grades K–3

Civics 1a: Students will know that...

1. The President is the leader of our country. [C1a]
2. Presidential elections occur every four years. [C1a]
3. Leaders are sometimes chosen by election. [C1a]
4. Election is the best method for choosing leaders. [C1a]
5. Representatives are supposed to do what the majority wants them to do. [C1a]

Grades 4–5

Civics 1a: Students will know that...

1. Election is the best method for choosing leaders. [C1a]
2. Governments maintain order, manage resources, provide services, offer protection, and establish justice. [C1a]
3. In the United States, power is separated into three branches and diffused among national, state, and local governments. [C1a]
4. The purposes and structures of governments in the United States may be found in the U.S. and state constitutions. [C1a]
5. Delaware has one governor, 42 legislators, and five justices who sit on the state's Supreme Court. Delaware also has 2 U.S. senators and 1 U.S. representative. [C1a]
6. Power is separated and diffused to prevent its abuse. [C1a]
7. Local and state governments use their limited resources to deal with problems that affect relatively small numbers of people while the national government can use its vast resources to deal with problems that affect people across the entire country. [C1a]

Civics 1b: Students will know that...

1. The legislative branch makes the laws. [C1b]
2. The executive branch carries out the laws. [C1b]
3. The judicial branch interprets the laws. [C1b]
4. The idea for separation of powers comes from Montesquieu. [C1b]

Grades 6–8

Civics 1a: Students will know that...

1. governments have the power to make and enforce laws and regulations, levy taxes, conduct foreign policy, and make war. [C1a]

Civics 1b: Students will know that...

1. The government of the United States is separated into three branches. [C1b]
2. The United States has adopted a government that diffuses power among different levels of government. [C1b]
3. Local and state governments use their limited resources to deal with problems that affect relatively small numbers of people while the national government can use its vast resources to deal with problems that affect people across the entire country. [C1b]
4. The federal system operates smoothly because the responsibilities of federal, state, and local government are clearly distributed in the United States Constitution. [C1b]

Grades 9–12

Civics 1: Students will know that...

1. Governments have a variety of purposes including to maintain order, manage resources, provide services, offer protection, and establish justice. [C1a]
2. Governments have a variety of structures including monarchy, dictatorship, oligarchy, and plutocracy. [C1a]
3. Countries adopt different structures of government because of the differences in their histories, cultures, prevailing ideologies, and values. [C1a]

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UNIT 2

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Grades K–3

Civics 2: Students will know that...

1. Respect is when one person considers others worthy of high regard, esteem, or deference. [C2a]
2. Americans should respect others as well as their opinions and their property. [C2a]

Grades 4–5

Civics 2a: Students will know that...

1. Due process means that government must follow its own rules. [C2a]
2. People need to be protected from those who hold power. [C2a]
3. There are two major political parties in the United States. [C2a]
4. No one is above the law in the United States. [C2a]
5. Rights and laws help limit what government may and may not do. [C2a]
6. Government may not pass unfair laws or treat people unfairly. [C2a]

Civics 2b: Students will know that...

1. If everyone did whatever they wanted, we would all feel less free. [C2b]
2. The less people do, the more government will do. [C2b]

Grades 6–8

Civics 2a: Students will know that...

1. Two fundamental principles of the American political system are majority rule and minority rights. [C2a]
2. Those in positions of authority should be respected. [C2a]
3. Majority rule serves as a check against the abuse of power. [C2a]
4. The majority is sometimes denied what it wants for good reasons. [C2a]

5. Minorities are afforded special protections to safeguard them from a majority that can be as much a tyrant as any individual. [C2a]
6. The rights afforded to minorities are found in the Bill of Rights. [C2a]

Civics 2b: Students will know that...

1. The Constitution contains seven Articles. [C2b]
2. There are 85 Federalist Papers. [C2b]
3. Thomas Jefferson authored the Declaration of Independence which identifies the main principles of the American political system. [C2b]
4. While the American people have not always honored the principles that serve as the foundation of their political system, the gap between the ideals and the realities has narrowed over time. [C2b]

Grades 9–12

Civics 2a: Students will know that...

1. The fundamental rights of American citizens are found in the Bill of Rights. [C2a]
2. Political parties will naturally evolve in any democracy despite the perception that they are divisive. [C2a]
3. Political parties perform important functions such as nominating candidates, informing voters, getting people enthusiastic about political activities, and serving as watchdogs, encouraging compromise, and marginalizing extremists. [C2a]
4. The United States supports a two party system. [C2a]

Civics 2b: Students will know that...

1. The United States has operated under two plans of government, namely the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. [C2b]
2. The United States boasts the oldest written Constitution in the world. [C2b]
3. There are forces at work in the American political system that both constrain and permit change. [C2b]

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UNIT 3

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Grades K–3

Civics 3: Students will know that...

1. American citizens have a responsibility to vote. [C3a]
2. American citizens have the right to free speech. [C3a]
3. American citizens may earn the privilege to drive a car. [C3a]

Grades 4–5

Civics 3a: Students will

1. Be able to identify each amendment by number and the rights associated with each. [C3a]
2. Be able to identify James Madison as the chief author of the Bill of Rights. [C3a]
3. Be able to explain how and why individual rights are limited. [C3a]
4. Know that Congress passed 12 amendments but the states ratified only 10. [C3a]

Civics 3b: Students will be able to...

1. Explain how the rights listed in the Bill of Rights might be applied in everyday situations. [C3b]
2. Explain how rights such as the rights to a speedy and fair trial sometimes conflict. [C3b]
3. Explain that the U.S. Bill of rights was influenced by the English Bill of Rights. [C3b]

Grades 6–8

Civics 3: Students will know ...

1. The distinctions between political and economic freedom. [C3a]
2. Civil rights secure political freedom while property rights secure economic freedom. [C3a]

3. Basic property rights such the right to own, use, and dispose of property in a manner of one's choosing secure the freedom enjoyed by the American people. Americans also have the right to exclude others from using their property. [C3a]
4. Property rights can sometimes conflict with freedom. [C3a]

Civics 3b: Students will know that...

1. American citizens are supposed to vote, perform jury duty, obey the law, serve in the armed forces, and engage in public service. [C3b]

Grades 9–12

Civics 3: Students will know that...

1. American citizens have distinct responsibilities to remain informed, participate in civic life, and obey the law. [C3]
2. Remaining informed makes it possible to check the actions of elected officials. [C3]
3. Citizens should participate so that their interests are represented and their rights are secured. [C3]
4. They have a responsibility to obey the laws because of our commitment to the principle of majority rule and desires for ordered liberty. [C3]

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Grades K–3

Civics 4: Students will know that...

1. Working in groups is better than working alone. [C4]
2. The skills needed to work in groups include defining an objective, dividing responsibilities, and working cooperatively. [C4]

Grades 4–5

Civics 4: Students will know that...

1. Citizens are expected to remain informed. [C4]
2. The legal voting age is 18 in the United States. [C4]
3. Democratic decision-making practices include voting, elections, and the implementation of the principle of majority rule. [C4]

Grades 6–8

Civics 4: Students will know that...

1. Working in groups is better than working alone. [C4]
2. Effective participation in a democracy depends on a citizenry that becomes informed before voting. [C4]
3. Citizens should communicate with elected officials so that our representatives might better understand and implement the will of the majority. [C4]

Grades 9–12

Civics 4: Students will know that...

1. The most effective means of communicating with elected officials are letters and phone calls. [C4]
2. Those who volunteer to work in a political party might be asked to perform a wide range of services including mailing or distributing campaign literature, organizing get out the vote drives, and posting campaign ads. [C4]
3. Commissions are typically set up to investigate and recommend solutions to problems. Those serving on commissions identify and research problems, analyze alternative solutions, and recommend solutions. [C4]