

Civics and Economics

Standards for Civics and Economics examine the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students will examine the foundational documents and principles with which the constitutions of Virginia and the United States were established, identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. Through the economics standards, students will compare the United States economy to other types of economies and consider the government's role in the United States economy. Students will investigate the process by which decisions are made in the American market economy and explain the government's role in the United States economy. The standards identify personal character traits, such as patriotism, respect for the law, willingness to perform public service, and a sense of civic duty, that facilitate thoughtful and effective active participation in the civic life of an increasingly diverse democratic society.

Civic and economic education also must emphasize the intellectual and practical skills required for responsible citizenship. Students will learn to consider their own talents, aptitudes, personalities, and market demand as they explore future decisions. Students will practice these skills both inside and outside the classroom as they extend their understanding of the essential knowledge defined by the standards for Civics and Economics.

Skills

- CE.1 The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by
- a) analyzing and interpreting evidence from primary and secondary sources, including charts, graphs, and political cartoons;
 - b) analyzing how political and economic trends influence public policy, using demographic information and other data sources;
 - c) analyzing information to create diagrams, tables, charts, graphs, and spreadsheets;
 - d) determining the accuracy and validity of information by separating fact and opinion and recognizing bias;
 - e) constructing informed, evidence-based arguments from multiple sources;
 - f) determining multiple cause-and-effect relationships that impact political and economic events;
 - g) taking informed action to address school, community, local, state, national, and global issues;
 - h) using a decision-making model to analyze and explain the costs and benefits of a specific choice;
 - i) applying civic virtue and democratic principles to make collaborative decisions; and
 - j) defending conclusions orally and in writing to a wide range of audiences, using evidence from sources.

- CE.2 The student will apply social science skills to understand the foundations of American constitutional government by
- a) explaining the fundamental principles of consent of the governed, limited government, rule of law, democracy, and representative government;
 - b) examining and evaluating the impact of the Magna Carta, charters of the Virginia Company of London, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights;
 - c) describing the purposes for the Constitution of the United States as stated in its Preamble; and
 - d) describing the procedures for amending the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States.
- CE.3 The student will apply social science skills to understand citizenship and the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens by
- a) describing the processes by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States;
 - b) describing the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights guaranteed by due process and equal protection of the laws;
 - c) describing the duties of citizenship, including obeying the laws, paying taxes, defending the nation, and serving in court;
 - d) examining the responsibilities of citizenship, including registering and voting, communicating with government officials, participating in political campaigns, keeping informed about current issues, and respecting differing opinions in a diverse society; and
 - e) evaluating how civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good.
- CE.4 The student will demonstrate personal character traits that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life by
- a) practicing trustworthiness and honesty;
 - b) practicing courtesy and respect for the rights of others;
 - c) practicing responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance;
 - d) practicing respect for the law;
 - e) practicing patriotism;
 - f) practicing thoughtful decision making; and
 - g) practicing service to the school and/or local community.
- CE.5 The student will apply social science skills to understand the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government by
- a) describing the functions of political parties;
 - b) comparing and contrasting political parties;
 - c) analyzing campaigns for elective office, with emphasis on the role of the media;
 - d) evaluating and explaining the role of campaign contributions and costs;
 - e) examining the history of and requirements for voter registration, and participating in simulated local, state, and/or national elections; and

- f) describing the role of the Electoral College in the election of the president and vice president.

CE.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the national level by

- a) describing the structure and powers of the national government;
- b) explaining the principle of separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances;
- c) explaining and/or simulating the lawmaking process; and
- d) describing the roles and powers of the executive branch.

CE.7 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the state level by

- a) describing the structure and powers of the state government;
- b) explaining the relationship of state governments to the national government in the federal system;
- c) explaining and/or simulating the lawmaking process; and
- d) describing the roles and powers of the executive branch and regulatory boards.

CE.8 The student will apply social science skills to understand the American constitutional government at the local level by

- a) describing the structure and powers of the local government;
- b) explaining the relationship of local government to the state government; and
- c) explaining and/or simulating the lawmaking process.

CE.9 The student will apply social science skills to understand the judicial systems established by the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States by

- a) describing the organization of the United States judicial system as consisting of state and federal courts with original and appellate jurisdiction;
- b) describing the exercise of judicial review;
- c) comparing and contrasting civil and criminal cases; and
- d) explaining how due process protections seek to ensure justice.

CE.10 The student will apply social science skills to understand how public policy is made at the local, state, and national levels of government by

- a) examining the impact of the media on public opinion and public policy;
- b) describing how individuals and interest groups influence public policy; and
- c) describing the impact of international issues and events on local decision making.

- CE.11 The student will apply social science skills to understand how economic decisions are made in the marketplace by
- explaining that because of scarcity, consumers, producers, and governments must make choices, understanding that everyone's choice has an opportunity cost; and
 - comparing and contrasting how traditional, free market, command, and mixed economies decide how to allocate their limited resources.
- CE.12 The student will apply social science skills to understand the United States economy by
- describing the characteristics of the United States economy, including limited government, private property, profit, markets, consumer sovereignty, and competition;
 - describing how in a market economy supply and demand determine prices;
 - describing the types of business organizations and the role of entrepreneurship;
 - explaining the circular flow that shows how consumers (households), businesses (producers), and markets interact;
 - explaining how financial institutions channel funds from savers to borrowers; and
 - analyzing the relationship of Virginia and the United States to the global economy, with emphasis on the impact of technological innovations.
- CE.13 The student will apply social science skills to understand the role of government in the United States economy by
- examining competition in the marketplace;
 - explaining how and why government provides certain goods and services;
 - describing how local, state, and federal governments allocate their budgets and collect taxes to pay for goods and services they provide;
 - explaining the structure and main function of the Federal Reserve System and how it acts as the nation's central bank;
 - describing how governments regulate to protect consumers, labor, the environment, competition in the marketplace, and property rights; and
 - explaining the role of government currency and analyzing the purpose of a money economy.
- CE.14 The student will apply social science skills to understand personal finance and career opportunities by
- identifying talents, interests, and aspirations that influence career choice;
 - identifying human capital such as attitudes and behaviors that strengthen the individual work ethic and promote career success;
 - identifying human capital such as abilities, skills, and education and the changing supply of and demand for them in the economy;
 - examining the impact of technological change and globalization on career opportunities;
 - describing the importance of education to lifelong personal finances; and
 - analyzing the financial responsibilities of citizenship, including evaluating common forms of credit, savings, investments, purchases, contractual agreements, warranties, and guarantees.