



## AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/CIVICS

Welcome to American Government/Civics! This guide will help you understand what your student will learn in this required course and how you can support their learning at home. American Government/Civics provides students with a foundational understanding of the U.S. government's structure, principles, and functions, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. If you have questions, contact your child's teacher.

### Course focus: **Understanding Government and Civic Life**

Your child will gain a foundational understanding of the principles, structure, and functions of the United States government. Through the study of constitutional democracy, civic responsibilities, and the roles of each branch of government, your child will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become an informed and engaged citizen.

<b>CIVIC PARTICIPATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the importance of civic duties such as voting, public service, and staying informed</li><li>• Explore how elections work at the local, state, and national levels</li><li>• Analyze the Electoral College and the impact of the 17th and 12th Amendments</li></ul>	<b>FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compare systems of government (unitary, federal, confederal) and types of democracy</li><li>• Examine the influence of Enlightenment thinkers like Locke, Hobbes, and Montesquieu</li><li>• Understand the development of the U.S. Constitution and the protection of democratic ideals</li></ul>
<b>THE CONSTITUTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze the structure and powers of the national government</li><li>• Understand federalism and the balance of power between state and national governments</li><li>• Explore the Georgia Constitution and the role of state and local governments</li></ul>	<b>THE JUDICIAL BRANCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn how federal judges are selected and how courts are structured</li><li>• Examine civil liberties and civil rights, including due process and the Bill of Rights</li><li>• Understand the criminal justice process and how it protects individual rights</li></ul>
<b>THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the structure and powers of Congress</li><li>• Understand the legislative process and the role of lobbyists</li></ul>	<b>THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the structure and powers of the presidency</li><li>• Learn about impeachment, presidential roles, and the Cabinet</li></ul>

## HOW YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

High school students engage in:

- Critical Thinking: Analyzing legal documents and political systems
- Debate & Discussion: Exploring current events and civic issues
- Research & Writing: Developing arguments and policy proposals
- Civic Engagement: Simulating elections, court cases, and legislative processes

## SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL BUILD

- Interpret legal texts and government structures
- Evaluate political ideologies and public policies
- Understand rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Communicate ideas clearly in writing and speech

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Discuss current events and government decisions at home
- Encourage respectful debate and civic awareness
- Support participation in student government or community service
- Help your student prepare for voting and civic engagement as adults

American Government/Civics empowers students to understand how their government works and how they can actively participate in shaping their communities and country.



# SOCIAL STUDIES

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**HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL & ECONOMIC LITERACY.**