

Civics Education: 2024 Social Science Standards

Senate Bill 702

Strengthening Civics Education

During the 2021 Legislative session, the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 702, directing the State Board of Education to review the social science standards related to civics instruction before 2025 to consider emphasizing and making more accessible civic education related to:

- Voting as a fundamental civil right
- Identification and analysis of historically underrepresented groups
- Appreciation of the structure of government at local, state, tribal, and national levels
- Understanding of the values and principles of a pluralistic democracy

Civics Legislation Informs Revision of Standards

As an extension of Senate Bill 702, the Social Science Standards review and revision included changes specifically related to civics instruction. There were four concepts added to each social science domain. The four concepts for civics education include:

1. Political institutions
2. Identity, roles and responsibilities
3. Democratic principles
4. Civic engagement

Civics Advisory Review Board

- Senate Bill 702 required the establishment of a Civics Advisory Review Board composed of diverse community members and youth participants to review the social science standards.
- The Oregon Department of Education recruited over 25 members to participate on the Civics Advisory Review Board with representation, including public school students in grades 9-12, education



advocates, voting rights advocates, representatives of culturally specific organizations, and public school educators.

- The Civics Advisory Review Board met twice in April of 2024 to review the newly proposed 2024 Social Science Civics Standards with a particular focus on voting rights and how to vote, current and historical social movements, the roles of local governments and tribal governments, and the constitutional form of government in this country, and the United States Constitution, the Oregon Constitution. Revisions were made to the draft standards based on the feedback from this review board.

Civics Standards

Table 1. Examples of Civics Standards Across the Grades

Kindergarten Civics Civic Engagement K.C.CE.6	5th Grade Civics Democratic Principles 5C.DP.5	High School Civics Democratic Principles HS.C.DP.13
Explain and demonstrate how rules can reduce conflict, address unfairness, and promote fairness in different settings and cultures. <i>For instance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking turns • Transitioning to next activity • Raising your hand 	Analyze the Preamble and sections of the Constitution to understand the establishment and limitations of democratic principles. <i>For instance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas of individual rights and the protection of slavery • Representative democracy and limitations on suffrage • Recognition and violations of Tribal Sovereignty • Equality and individual liberty • Limited Government and the Supremacy Clause • General Welfare and Individual property rights 	Argue and defend positions on contemporary issues in which foundational ideas or values are in tension. <i>For instance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority Rule and Individual Rights • Popular vote and Electoral College • Liberty and Equality • Equity and Equality • Individual Rights and Community Interests • Freedom and Security

Contact Us for More Information

Please visit the Oregon Department of Education Social Science webpage at [Social Sciences - Oregon Department of Education](#) to learn more about civics education in Oregon.

Contact us with any questions that you may have regarding social science education at ode.socialscience@ode.oregon.gov.