

Social Studies Curriculum

Civics and Economics

Civics and Economics, taught in eighth grade, includes basic knowledge and understanding of the concepts and processes of democratic government and the American economic system. Students learn the meaning of individual rights and responsibilities; the ideals of liberty, justice, and equality; and the rule of law. Students develop an understanding of public and personal economic and financial decisions. A service learning component helps students personalize citizenship education.



SS.CE

Standard 1

DEVELOP SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS



Benchmark 1.a

Examine and Interpret Primary and Secondary Source Documents



Indicator 1.a.1

Examine and interpret primary and secondary source documents



Indicator 1.a.2

Gather information from written and oral sources



Indicator 1.a.3

Identify the characteristics of primary and secondary sources



Indicator 1.a.4

Identify the main idea (thesis) and supporting details (evidence)



Indicator 1.a.5

Draw logical inferences from primary and secondary source documents



Benchmark 1.b

Create Maps, Diagrams, Tables, Charts, Graphs, Spreadsheets



Indicator 1.b.1

Create maps, diagrams, tables, charts, graphs, spreadsheets



Indicator 1.b.2

Organize information in different formats



Indicator 1.b.3

Use spreadsheets to record, analyze, and present information



Benchmark 1.c

Analyze Political Cartoons, Ads, Pictures, and Other Graphic Media




Indicator 1.c.1

Analyze political cartoons, ads, pictures, and other graphic media




Indicator 1.c.2


Gather information from visual sources


 **Indicator 1.c.3**
Draw logical inferences from visual sources

 **Benchmark 1.d**
Distinguish Between Relevant and Irrelevant Information

 **Indicator 1.d.1**
Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information

 **Benchmark 1.e**
Review Information for Accuracy, Separating Fact from Opinion


 **Indicator 1.e.1**
Review information for accuracy, separating fact from opinion

 **Indicator 1.e.2**
Recognize bias

 **Indicator 1.e.3**
Distinguish between fact and opinion

 **Indicator 1.e.4**
Determine the accuracy and reliability of sources

 **Benchmark 1.f**
Identify a Problem and Recommend Solutions

 **Indicator 1.f.1**
Identify a problem and recommend solutions

 **Indicator 1.f.2**
Identify a situation in which a decision is required

 **Indicator 1.f.3**
Make a decision based on available information

 **Indicator 1.f.4**
Identify possible alternatives to, and consequences of, the decision

 **Indicator 1.f.5**
Provide a rationale for the decision


 **Indicator 1.f.6**
Take action to implement the decision

 **Benchmark 1.g**
Select and Defend Positions in Writing, Discussion, and Debate

 **Indicator 1.g.1**
Select and defend positions in writing, discussion, and debate


 **Indicator 1.g.2**
Evaluate, take, and defend a position on a contemporary issue

 **Indicator 1.g.3**
Demonstrate effective written communication skills

 **Indicator 1.g.4**
Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

 **Benchmark 1.h**
Organize and Synthesize Information in a Variety of Forms

 **Indicator 1.h.1**
Organize and synthesize information in a variety of forms

 **Indicator 1.h.2**
Use search strategies to access and retrieve electronic information

 **Indicator 1.h.3**
Classify information according to specific criteria

 **Indicator 1.h.4**
Organize information using different methods

 **Indicator 1.h.5**
Paraphrase information

 **Indicator 1.h.6**
Summarize information from a variety of sources

 **Indicator 1.h.7**
Compare and contrast information

 **Indicator 1.h.8**
Determine cause and effect relationships

 **Indicator 1.h.9**
Develop generalizations based on information from multiple sources

 **Indicator 1.h.10**
Communicate through a variety of products and formats









 **Indicator 1.h.11**
Communicate knowledge and understanding through many activities

 **Benchmark 1.i**
Apply Course Knowledge and Understanding to Other Content Areas







 **Indicator 1.i.1**
Apply course knowledge and understanding to other content areas

 **Standard 2****DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

 **Benchmark 2.a**
Explain the Fundamental Principles of American Government




-  **Indicator 2.a.1**
Explain the concept of consent of the governed
 -  **Indicator 2.a.2**
Explain the concept of limited government
 -  **Indicator 2.a.3**
Explain the concept of rule of law
 -  **Indicator 2.a.4**
Explain that in a democratic system of government the people rule
 -  **Indicator 2.a.5**
Explain the concept of a representative government
 -  **Indicator 2.a.6**
Explain the concept of constitutionalism
 -  **Indicator 2.a.7**
Explain the concept of majority rule
 -  **Indicator 2.a.8**
Explain the concept of minority rights
-

 **Benchmark 2.b**
Explain the Significance of the Founding Documents of American Govt

-  **Indicator 2.b.1**
Analyze the charters of the Virginia Company of London
 -  **Indicator 2.b.2**
Analyze the Virginia Declaration of Rights
 -  **Indicator 2.b.3**
Analyze the Declaration of Independence
 -  **Indicator 2.b.4**
Analyze the Articles of Confederation
 -  **Indicator 2.b.5**
Analyze the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights
 -  **Indicator 2.b.6**
Analyze the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom
-

 **Benchmark 2.c**

Identify the Purposes for US Constitution as Stated in the Preamble

-  **Indicator 2.c.1**
Explain that the Preamble expresses reasons for U.S. Constitution
-  **Indicator 2.c.2**
Identify purposes of the U.S. government as stated in the Preamble
-  **Indicator 2.c.3**
Explain the concept of "We the people"



SS.CE





Standard 3

DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS AND DUTIES



Benchmark 3.a








Describe Process by Which an Individual Becomes a US Citizen

-  **Indicator 3.a.1**
Explain the definition of citizenship in the Fourteenth Amendment
-  **Indicator 3.a.2**
Describe how people can become citizens by birth or naturalization
-  **Indicator 3.a.3**
Explain how immigration and naturalization have created diversity
-  **Indicator 3.a.4**
Explain the requirements to become a citizen through naturalization



Benchmark 3.b


Describe 1st Amendment Freedoms, Due Process, & Equal Protection


-  **Indicator 3.b.1**
Explain the First Amendment freedom of religion
-  **Indicator 3.b.2**
Explain the First Amendment freedom of speech
-  **Indicator 3.b.3**
Explain the First Amendment freedom of the press
-  **Indicator 3.b.4**
Explain the First Amendment freedom of assembly
-  **Indicator 3.b.5**
Explain the First Amendment freedom of petition
-  **Indicator 3.b.6**
Describe due process
-  **Indicator 3.b.7**

Describe equal protection of the law

 Indicator 3.b.8
Explain that Fourteenth Amendment extends due process to states

 Indicator 3.b.9
Apply knowledge of constitutional protections to everyday life

 Benchmark 3.c
Describe the Duties of Citizenship


 Indicator 3.c.1
Describe the duties of citizenship

 Indicator 3.c.2
Explain legal consequences of not fulfilling citizenship duties

 Benchmark 3.d
Examine the Responsibilities of Citizenship

 Indicator 3.d.1
Explain that civic responsibilities are voluntary

 Indicator 3.d.2
Identify and describe civic responsibilities of citizens

 Indicator 3.d.3
Identify responsibilities in family, school, community, state & world

 Benchmark 3.e
Evaluate How Civic and Social Duties Address Community Needs

 Indicator 3.e.1
Describe different ways for citizens to serve the community

 Indicator 3.e.2
Participate in a service learning project

 **SS.CE**
Standard 4
DEMONSTRATE CHARACTER TRAITS THAT AID PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC LIFE

 Benchmark 4.a
Practice Trustworthiness and Honesty

 Indicator 4.a.1
Practice trustworthiness and honesty

Benchmark 4.b


 **Practice Courtesy and Respect for the Rights of Others**

 **Indicator 4.b.1**
Practice courtesy and respect for the rights of others


 **Benchmark 4.c**
Practice Responsibility, Accountability, and Self-Reliance

 **Indicator 4.c.1**
Practice responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance

 **Benchmark 4.d**
Practice Respect for the Law

 **Indicator 4.d.1**
Practice respect for the law

 **Benchmark 4.e**
Practice Patriotism

 **Indicator 4.e.1**
Practice patriotism

 **SS.CE**
Standard 5
DEMONSTRATE LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL POLITICAL PROCESS


 **Benchmark 5.a**
Describe the Functions of Political Parties

 **Indicator 5.a.1**
Identify and explain the functions of political parties

 **Benchmark 5.b**
Compare the Similarities and Differences of Political Parties

 **Indicator 5.b.1**
Describe the similarities between parties

 **Indicator 5.b.2**
Describe the differences between parties

 **Indicator 5.b.3**
Explain the role of third parties in the political process

 **Benchmark 5.c**
Analyze Campaigns for Elective Office, Emphasizing Role of Media

 **Indicator 5.c.1**
Identify and practice strategies for evaluating campaign materials


 **Indicator 5.c.2**
Explain the role of mass media in elections

 **Benchmark 5.d**
Examine the Role of Campaign Contributions and Costs

 **Indicator 5.d.1**
Explain the impact of rising campaign costs

 **Indicator 5.d.2**
Analyze attempts to enact campaign finance reform


 **Benchmark 5.e**
Describe Voter Registration and Participation

 **Indicator 5.e.1**
Explain that citizens must register in order to vote


 **Indicator 5.e.2**
Identify the qualifications to register as a voter in Virginia

 **Indicator 5.e.3**
Explain how to register to vote in Virginia

 **Indicator 5.e.4**
Identify factors that help predict which citizens will vote

 **Indicator 5.e.5**
Explain why some citizens fail to vote

 **Indicator 5.e.6**
Explain that voter turnout is usually larger in presidential elections

 **Indicator 5.e.7**
Explain why every vote is important

 **Benchmark 5.f**
Describe the Role of the Electoral College in Presidential Elections

 **Indicator 5.f.1**
Describe the electoral process for presidential elections

 **Indicator 5.f.2**
Explain how a state's number of electors is determined

 **Indicator 5.f.3**
Explain how the electoral college favors a two-party system



SS.CE

Standard 6

DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE US CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT



Benchmark 6.a

Explain the Relationship of State Governments to National Government



Indicator 6.a.1

Explain that the Constitution establishes a federal government



Indicator 6.a.2

Explain the ideas of enumerated/expressed and implied powers



Indicator 6.a.3

Explain the idea of reserved powers



Indicator 6.a.4

Explain that some powers are denied to national & state government



Indicator 6.a.5

Explain that local government powers in VA are derived from the state



Indicator 6.a.6

Describe the primary responsibilities of the national government



Indicator 6.a.7

Describe the primary responsibilities of state governments



Indicator 6.a.8

Determine why powers are shared among national/state/local levels



Benchmark 6.b

Describe the Structure and Powers of National/State/Local Govts.



Indicator 6.b.1

Explain that government powers and responsibilities are limited



Indicator 6.b.2

Describe the legislative powers of the national government



Indicator 6.b.3

Describe the executive powers of the national government



Indicator 6.b.4

Describe the judicial powers of the national government



Indicator 6.b.5

Describe the legislative powers of the Virginia government



Indicator 6.b.6

Describe the executive powers of the Virginia government

Indicator 6.b.7

 Describe the judicial powers of the Virginia government

 **Indicator 6.b.8**
Describe the legislative powers of the local government

 **Indicator 6.b.9**
Describe the executive powers of the local government

 **Indicator 6.b.10**
Describe the judicial powers of the local government

 **Indicator 6.b.11**
Identify the elected officials who represent Fairfax County

 **Benchmark 6.c**
Explain Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

 **Indicator 6.c.1**
Identify and explain legislative powers over the executive branch

 **Indicator 6.c.2**
Identify and explain legislative powers over the judicial branch

 **Indicator 6.c.3**
Identify and explain executive powers over the legislative branch

 **Indicator 6.c.4**
Identify and explain executive powers over the judicial branch

 **Indicator 6.c.5**
Identify and explain judicial powers over the legislative branch

 **Indicator 6.c.6**
Identify and explain judicial powers over the executive branch

 **Benchmark 6.d**
Identify Procedures for Amending the US Constitution

 **Indicator 6.d.1**
Explain the procedures for amending the US Constitution

 **Indicator 6.d.2**
Describe the complexity of the amendment process

 **SS.CE**
Standard 7
DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS

 **Benchmark 7.a**
Explain the Lawmaking Process



Indicator 7.a.1
Define "bicameral"



Indicator 7.a.2
Identify examples of bicameral legislatures



Indicator 7.a.3
Define expressed and implied powers and cite examples



Indicator 7.a.4
Describe the lawmaking process in national and state legislatures



Indicator 7.a.5
Explain why legislators make laws



Indicator 7.a.6
Explain what helps shape legislation



Benchmark 7.b
Describe the Roles and Powers of the Executive Branch



Indicator 7.b.1
Explain that the constitution defines the executive branch powers



Indicator 7.b.2
Explain that national and state executive branches carry out the law



Indicator 7.b.3
Identify & assess ways the executive branch influences policymaking



Indicator 7.b.4
Describe the roles of cabinet depts, agencies, and regulatory groups



Benchmark 7.c
Examine the Impact of the Media on Public Opinion and Public Policy



Indicator 7.c.1
Assess ways the media play a role in setting the public agenda



Indicator 7.c.2
Describe how officials use the media to communicate with the public



Benchmark 7.d
Describe How Individuals and Interest Groups Influence Public Policy



Indicator 7.d.1
Define lobbying



Indicator 7.d.2
Assess ways individuals influence public policy

Indicator 7.d.3

 Assess ways interest groups influence public policy



SS.CE

Standard 8

DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF US AND VA JUDICIAL SYSTEMS



Benchmark 8.a

Describe the Organization and Jurisdiction of Federal & State Courts



Indicator 8.a.1

Describe the dual court system of state and federal courts



Indicator 8.a.2

Describe original and appellate jurisdiction



Indicator 8.a.3

Explain that Virginia has its own court system



Indicator 8.a.4

Describe the role of the Virginia Supreme Court



Indicator 8.a.5

Describe the role of the Court of Appeals of Virginia



Indicator 8.a.6

Describe the role of the Circuit Court



Indicator 8.a.7

Describe the role of the General District Court



Indicator 8.a.8

Describe the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court



Indicator 8.a.9

Explain the role of magistrates



Indicator 8.a.10

Explain that the United States has a separate court system



Indicator 8.a.11

Describe the role of the US Supreme Court



Indicator 8.a.12

Describe the role of the US Court of Appeals



Indicator 8.a.13

Describe the role of the US District Court



Benchmark 8.b

Describe the Exercise of Judicial Review

Indicator 8.b.1

 Describe the power of judicial review

 Indicator 8.b.2
Explain how Marbury v. Madison established judicial review

 Indicator 8.b.3
Recognize that the US Constitution is the supreme law of the land


 Indicator 8.b.4
Explain that state laws must conform to the US and VA constitutions

 **Benchmark 8.c**
Explain Court Proceedings in Civil and Criminal Cases

 Indicator 8.c.1
Describe the role of a court in a criminal case

 Indicator 8.c.2
Explain criminal procedure in felony cases

 Indicator 8.c.3
Explain the role of a court in a civil case


 Indicator 8.c.4
Explain procedure for civil cases

 Indicator 8.c.5
Explain court procedure for cases involving juveniles

 Indicator 8.c.6
Compare and contrast the rights of juveniles & the rights of adults

 Indicator 8.c.7
Describe the role of a court in a constitutional case

 **Benchmark 8.d**
Explain How Due Process Protections Seek to Ensure Justice

 Indicator 8.d.1
Define due process of law










 Indicator 8.d.2
Explain the provisions of the 5th Amendment

 Indicator 8.d.3
Explain the protections of the 14th Amendment

 Indicator 8.d.4
Explain that due process clauses are extended to the Bill of Rights

DEMONSTRATE HOW ECONOMIC DECISIONS ARE MADE







Benchmark 9.a Apply Knowledge of Basic Economic Concepts

-  Indicator 9.a.1
Define and explain the concept of scarcity
 -  Indicator 9.a.2
Define and explain the concept of resources
 -  Indicator 9.a.3
Define and explain the concept of choice
 -  Indicator 9.a.4
Define and explain the concept of opportunity cost
 -  Indicator 9.a.5
Define and explain the concept of price
 -  Indicator 9.a.6
Define and explain the concept of incentives
 -  Indicator 9.a.7
Define and explain the concept of supply and demand
 -  Indicator 9.a.8
Define and explain the concept of production
 -  Indicator 9.a.9
Define and explain the concept of consumption
-

Benchmark 9.b Compare Free Market, Command, and Mixed Economies

-  Indicator 9.b.1
Identify characteristics of free market economies
 -  Indicator 9.b.2
Identify characteristics of command economies
 -  Indicator 9.b.3
Identify characteristics of mixed economies
 -  Indicator 9.b.4
Compare and contrast free market, command, and mixed economies
 -  Indicator 9.b.5
Assess advantages & disadvantages of different types of economies
-

Benchmark 9.c Describe the Characteristics of the US Economy

-  **Indicator 9.c.1**
Explain that individuals, businesses, & govt. make economic decisions
 -  **Indicator 9.c.2**
Describe free markets as a characteristic of the US economy
 -  **Indicator 9.c.3**
Describe private property as a characteristic of the US economy
 -  **Indicator 9.c.4**
Describe profit as a characteristic of the US economy
 -  **Indicator 9.c.5**
Describe competition as a characteristic of the US economy
 -  **Indicator 9.c.6**
Describe consumer sovereignty as characteristic of the US economy
-



SS.CE






Standard 10

DEMONSTRATE THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF THE US ECONOMY



Benchmark 10.a




Describe Types of Business Organizations & Role of Entrepreneurship

-  **Indicator 10.a.1**
Describe the proprietorship form of business organization
 -  **Indicator 10.a.2**
Describe the partnership form of business organization
 -  **Indicator 10.a.3**
Describe the corporation form of business organization
 -  **Indicator 10.a.4**
Describe the characteristics of an entrepreneur
 -  **Indicator 10.a.5**
Assess advantages & disadvantages of different business organizations
-



Benchmark 10.b

Explain the Circular Flow of Consumer, Producer, Market Interactions

-  **Indicator 10.b.1**
Explain how saving and investment produce financial capital
-  **Indicator 10.b.2**
Describe the role of individuals in the economy's circular flow
-  **Indicator 10.b.3**
Describe the role of businesses in the economy's circular flow


 **Indicator 10.b.4**
Describe the role of government in the economy's circular flow


 **Benchmark 10.c**
Explain How Financial Institutions Encourage Saving and Investing

 **Indicator 10.c.1**
Identify different types of private financial institutions

 **Indicator 10.c.2**
Explain how private financial institutions get deposits & make loans

 **Indicator 10.c.3**
Explain the role of interest in encouraging saving and investing

 **Benchmark 10.d**
Examine the Relationship of VA and the US to the Global Economy

 **Indicator 10.d.1**
Define the global economy

 **Indicator 10.d.2**
Analyze the reasons that states and nations trade

 **Indicator 10.d.3**
Explain that VA and the US specialize in certain goods and services

 **Indicator 10.d.4**
Assess impact of technological innovations on the global economy

 **Benchmark 10.e**
Make Effective Economic Decisions as Informed Consumers

 **Indicator 10.e.1**
Describe and evaluate common forms of credit

 **Indicator 10.e.2**
Describe and evaluate common forms of savings and investments

 **Indicator 10.e.3**
Describe and evaluate common forms of purchases

 **Indicator 10.e.4**
Describe and evaluate common forms of contractual agreements

 **Indicator 10.e.5**
Describe and evaluate common forms of warranties and guarantees

 **Indicator 10.e.6**
Apply economic knowledge to make informed decisions



SS.CE

Standard 11

DEMONSTRATE THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE US ECONOMY



Benchmark 11.a

Examine Competition in the Marketplace



Indicator 11.a.1

Assess ways the government promotes marketplace competition



Indicator 11.a.2

Identify and describe government agencies that regulate business



Indicator 11.a.3

Explain how government agencies oversee how business is done



Benchmark 11.b

Explain the Creation of Public Goods and Services



Indicator 11.b.1

Describe public goods and services



Indicator 11.b.2

Explain ways governments produce public goods and services



Benchmark 11.c

Describe the Impact of Taxation on the US Economy



Indicator 11.c.1

Assess the impact of government taxation on the US economy



Indicator 11.c.2

Assess the impact of government borrowing on the US economy



Indicator 11.c.3

Assess the impact of government spending on the US economy



Indicator 11.c.4

Explain that 16th Amendment authorizes Congress to tax incomes



Indicator 11.c.5

Analyze and evaluate impact of taxation on spending & borrowing



Benchmark 11.d

Explain How the Federal Reserve System Regulates Money Supply



Indicator 11.d.1

Identify the Federal Reserve System as the central bank of the US




Indicator 11.d.2

Explain that the Federal Reserve banks act as a "banker's bank"

 **Indicator 11.d.3**
Assess ways the Federal Reserve Bank slows the US economy

 **Indicator 11.d.4**
Assess ways the Federal Reserve Bank stimulates the US economy

 **Benchmark 11.e**
Describe the Protection of Consumer Rights and Property Rights

 **Indicator 11.e.1**
Explain that individuals have the right of private ownership

 **Indicator 11.e.2**
Explain how government agencies protect public health and safety

 **Indicator 11.e.3**
Explain how consumers take legal action to protect consumer rights

 **SS.CE**
Standard 12
DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES


 **Benchmark 12.a**
Identify Talents, Interests, Aspirations that Influence Career Choice

 **Indicator 12.a.1**
Explain that career planning starts with self-assessment

 **Indicator 12.a.2**
Explain how self-assessment identifies talents, interests, aspirations

 **Benchmark 12.b**
Identify Attitudes and Behaviors That Promote Career Success

 **Indicator 12.b.1**
Explain that employers seek employees with strong work ethics

 **Indicator 12.b.2**
Identify attitudes & behaviors that demonstrate a strong work ethic


 **Benchmark 12.c**
Identify Skills and Education That Careers Require

 **Indicator 12.c.1**
Explain how higher skills and education levels lead to higher income

 **Indicator 12.c.2**
Explain how supply and demand also influence job income

 **Benchmark 12.d**
Examine Impact of Technological Change on Career Opportunities

 **Indicator 12.d.1**
Explain that employers seek workers who keep up with technology

 **Indicator 12.d.2**
Explain that technological advancements can create new jobs

 **SS.CE**
Standard 13
DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF GEOGRAPHY, POLITICS, ECONOMICS

 **Benchmark 13.a**
Describe the World in Geographic Terms


 **Indicator 13.a.1**
Identify selected countries and world regions

 **Indicator 13.a.2**
Identify major rivers, mountain ranges and bodies of water

 **Indicator 13.a.3**
Use a variety of methods to manipulate geographic information


 **Indicator 13.a.4**
Apply geographic concepts to describe the world in spacial terms

 **Benchmark 13.b**
Examine the Relationship of the US to Other Nations & World Affairs

 **Indicator 13.b.1**
Compare the US political system to other political systems

 **Indicator 13.b.2**
Compare the US economic system to other economic systems

 **Indicator 13.b.3**
Examine the changing role of the United States in world affairs

 **Indicator 13.b.4**
Explain how different cultures perceive global challenges differently