

STATE GOAL 14: Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.

Why This Goal Is Important: The existence and advancement of a free society depend on the knowledge, skills and understanding of its citizenry. Through the study of various forms and levels of government and the documents and institutions of the United States, students will develop the skills and knowledge that they need to be contributing citizens, now and in the future.

A. Understand and explain basic principles of the United States government.

EARLY ELEMENTARY	LATE ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL	LATE HIGH SCHOOL
14.A.1 Describe the fundamental principles of government including representative government, government of law, individual rights and the common good.	14.A.2 Explain the importance of fundamental concepts expressed and implied in major documents including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Illinois Constitution.	14.A.3 Describe how responsibilities are shared and limited by the United States and Illinois Constitutions and significant court decisions.	14.A.4 Analyze how local, state and national governments serve the purposes for which they were created.	4.A.5 Analyze ways in which federalism protects individual rights and promotes the common good and how at times has made it possible for states to protect and deny rights for certain groups.

B. Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

EARLY ELEMENTARY	LATE ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL	LATE HIGH SCHOOL
14.B.1 Identify the different levels of government as local, state and national.	14.B.2 Explain what government does at local, state and national levels.	14.B.3 Identify and compare the basic political systems of Illinois and the United States as prescribed in their constitutions.	14.B.4 Compare the political systems of the United States to other nations.	14.B.5 Analyze similarities and differences among world political systems (e.g., democracy, socialism, communism).

C. Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens.

EARLY ELEMENTARY	LATE ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL	LATE HIGH SCHOOL
14.C.1 Identify concepts of responsible citizenship including respect for the law, patriotism, civility and working with others.	14.C.2 Describe and evaluate why rights and responsibilities are important to the individual, family, community, workplace, state and nation (e.g., voting, protection under the law).	14.C.3 Compare historical issues involving rights, roles and status of individuals in relation to municipalities, states and the nation.	14.C.4 Describe the meaning of participatory citizenship (e.g., volunteerism, voting) at all levels of government and society in the United States.	14.C.5 Analyze the consequences of participation and non-participation in the electoral process (e.g., women's suffrage, voter registration, effects of media).

D. Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

EARLY ELEMENTARY	LATE ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL	LATE HIGH SCHOOL
14.D.1 Identify the roles of civic leaders (e.g., elected leaders, public service leaders).	14.D.2 Explain ways that individuals and groups influence and shape public policy.	14.D.3 Describe roles and influences of individuals, groups and media in shaping current Illinois and United States public policy (e.g., general public opinion, special interest groups, formal parties, media).	14.D.4 Analyze roles and influences of individuals, groups and media in shaping current debates on state and national policies.	14.D.5 Interpret a variety of public policies and issues from the perspectives of different individuals and groups.

E. Understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues.

EARLY ELEMENTARY	LATE ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL	LATE HIGH SCHOOL
14.E.1 Identify relationships that the federal government establishes with other nations.	14.E.2 Determine and explain the leadership role of the United States in international settings.	14.E.3 Compare the basic principles of the United States and its international interests (e.g., territory, environment, trade, use of technology).	14.E.4 Analyze historical trends of United States foreign policy (e.g., emergence as a world leader - military, industrial, financial).	14.E.5 Analyze relationships and tensions among members of the international community.

F. Understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions.

EARLY ELEMENTARY	LATE ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL	LATE HIGH SCHOOL
14.F.1 Describe political ideas and traditions important to the development of the United States including democracy, individual rights and the concept of freedom.	14.F.2 Identify consistencies and inconsistencies between expressed United States political traditions and ideas and actual practices (e.g., freedom of speech, right to bear arms, slavery, voting rights).	14.F.3a Analyze historical influences on the development of political ideas and practices as enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Illinois Constitution.	14.F.4a Determine the historical events and processes that brought about changes in United States political ideas and traditions (e.g., the New Deal, Civil War).	14.F.5 Interpret how changing geographical, economic, technological and social forces affect United States political ideas and traditions (e.g., freedom, equality and justice, individual rights).
		14.F.3b Describe how United States political ideas and traditions were instituted in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.	14.F.4b Describe how United States' political ideas, practices and technologies have extended rights for Americans in the 20 th century (e.g., suffrage, civil rights, motor-voter registration).	