Social Studies Education in the State of Washington

Our Goal
To support all educators as they implement the State Learning Standards and prepare their students for responsible participation in our state, nation, and world.

Civics
The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation’s fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

Economics
The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

Geography
The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

History
The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes of local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

Social Studies Skills
The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

discussion & public forum
compromise & consensus
social responsibility
equality & equity

Social Studies Education Laws and Regulations in Washington State

- Basic Education Act Goals (State Learning Standards) – RCW 28A.150.210
- Civics Requirement – RCW 28A.230.093
- Social Studies Assessment and Verification Reports – RCW 28A.230.095
- Washington State History and Government Requirement – WAC 392-410-120
- Waiver of Washington State History and Government Requirement – RCW 28A.230.060
- Compulsory Study of State and National Constitutions – RCW 28A.230.170
- Civil Rights Education – RCW 28A.230.178
- Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program – RCW 28A.300.405
- Student Court Programs – RCW 28A.300.420
- United States Flag and National Anthem – RCW 28A.230.140
- Temperance and Good Citizenship Day – RCW 28A.230.150
- Observance of Veterans Day – RCW 28A.230.160

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts provide an integrated model for literacy in history and other social studies disciplines. Guided by teachers, students will:
- Gather, comprehend, evaluate, synthesize, and report on information and ideas.
- Conduct original research in order to answer questions or solve problems.
- Analyze and create a range of print and nonprint texts in media forms both old and new.

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