Connections to Rhode Island’s Standards-Based Guide for Social Studies Programs in Rhode Island Schools

National Standards for Civics and Government
K - 4 Content Standards

Topic 1-
Standards-
Purposes of rules and laws. Students should be able to explain the purposes of rules and laws and why they are important in their classroom, school, community, state, and nation.

Topic 2-
Standards
American identity. Students should be able to explain the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, principles, and beliefs.

Diversity in American society. Students should be able to describe diversity in the United States and identify its benefits.

Prevention and management of conflicts. Students should be able to identify and evaluate ways conflicts about diversity can be prevented and managed.

Organization and major responsibilities of the national government. Students should be able to give examples of ways the national government protects individual rights and promotes the common good.

Topic 5-
Standards
The meaning of citizenship. Students should be able to explain the meaning of citizenship in the United States.

Becoming a citizen. Students should be able to explain how one becomes a citizen of the United States.

Rights of individuals. Students should be able to explain why certain rights are important to the individual and to a democratic society.

Responsibilities of individuals. Students should be able to explain why certain responsibilities are important to themselves and their family, community, state, and nation.
5 - 8 Content Standards

Topic 1-
The rule of law. Students should be able to explain the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good.

Topic 2-
Distinctive characteristics of American society. Students should be able to identify and explain the importance of historical experience and geographic, social, and economic factors that have helped to shape American society.

Topic 3-
Associations and groups. Students should be able to explain how interest groups, unions, and professional organizations provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process.

Topic 5-
The meaning of citizenship. Students should be able to explain the meaning of American citizenship.

Becoming a citizen. Students should be able to explain how one becomes a citizen of the United States.

9 - 12 Content Standards

Topic 1-
The relationship of limited government to political and economic freedom. Students should be able to explain and evaluate competing ideas regarding the relationship between political and economic freedoms.

Topic 2-
The role of organized groups in political life. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on the contemporary role of organized groups in American social and political life.

Diversity in American society. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues regarding diversity in American life.

Topic 4-
Economic, technological, and cultural developments. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions about the effects of significant economic, technological, and cultural developments in the United States and other nations.
Topic 5-

The meaning of citizenship. Students should be able to explain the meaning of citizenship in the United States.

Becoming a citizen. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues regarding the criteria used for naturalization.

Personal rights. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues involving personal rights.

Economic rights. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues involving economic rights.

Civic responsibilities. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues regarding civic responsibilities of citizens in American constitutional democracy.

Dispositions that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity. Students should be able to evaluate, take, and defend positions on the importance to American constitutional democracy of dispositions that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity.