



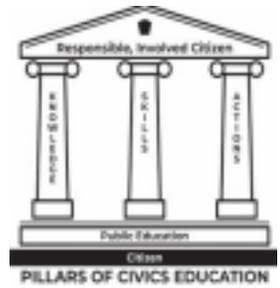
PA Act 35 Civic Engagement

In 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed into law Act 35 of 2018 (Appendix A) which requires that all school entities administer a locally developed assessment of U.S. history, government, and civics at least once to students during grades 7-12, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. This civic knowledge toolkit is designed to assist school entities in the development of an assessment that both satisfies the required elements of Act 35 and aligns with State Academic Standards for Civics and Government, Economics, Geography, and History. The resources were compiled by PDE in consultation with the Civics Advisory Council comprised of national, state, and local experts in civic education. The toolkit of resources is available online in the Standards Aligned System (www.pdesas.org) and the PDE website (www.education.pa.gov).

[PDE Act 35 Civics Toolkit](#)

- ❑ [Act 35 Civics Assessment of Civics Knowledge Introduction](#)
- ❑ [Act 35 Civics Pillar 1 - Civic Knowledge](#)
- ❑ [Act 35 Civics Pillar 2 - Civics Skills](#)
- ❑ [Act 35 Civics Pillar 3 - Actions](#)
- ❑ [Act 35 Civics Sample Civics Knowledge Assessment](#)
- ❑ [Act 35 Civics Appendix A – Act 35 of 2018](#)

The Union City Area School District will assess students during their **11th grade year**. Take a look at our [2021-2022 plan right here](#).



Pillars of Civic Education

The knowledge pillar underscores planned instruction to support student understanding of concepts of the Academic Standards. Assessment focuses on the four critical components of civics education:

- Principles and Documents of Government
- Rights and Responsibilities
- How Government Works
- International Relationships

The skills pillar seeks to have students engage in active civic participation: applying the knowledge gained in the first pillar. At the school level, students participate in student council/school governance, extracurricular activities, mock trials and similar simulation activities, service learning, and various clubs and organizations. Opportunities for civil discussions, discourse, and debate also provide opportunities to hone skills.

Another important aspect of skills development is the need for tolerance and acceptance of others. Anti-bullying initiatives and programs such as Positive Schoolwide Behavior Support are critical components in the schoolwide setting.

Pillar 3: Actions

Responsible and involved citizens take an active role through a myriad of actions and dispositions:

- Acceptance of diversity
- Involvement in the community
- Military service
- Voting in elections
- Assuming responsibility for choices
- Respecting the rule of law
- Political attentiveness
- Government Service – local, state, and national
- Respecting those who serve the common good
- Educator professional development

By incorporating all three pillars in a civics program, students acquire the knowledge behind the meaning of “We the People.” They have an opportunity to operate as a citizen, experience citizenry and understand that the government of the United States is theirs. This encourages each generation to “secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.”