



Act 35 Civics Assessment Plan
2023-2024 School Year

Who: 11th grade students in Government/Civics or 12th grade students in the ECTS Government & Civics course

What: Meet the 3 pillars of the Act 35 requirements (see Page 3)

When: The last week in April

Where: Mrs. Bond's Civics/American Government classes

Why: To meet Act 35 requirements (see Page 3)

How:

1. Foundations of Government
 - a. Providing a framework and institutions through which decisions are made for the well-being of a group of people
 - b. History channel videos, iCivics.org, textbook
2. Origins of American Government
 - a. Drawing on personal beliefs and knowledge of political ideas from a variety of historical and contemporary sources to create a representative democracy.
 - b. History channel videos, iCivics.org, textbook, outside readings
3. The Constitution
 - a. Providing a framework for a strong, just, and resilient system of government.
 - b. iCivics.org, textbook, state constitutions, and historical readings from founding fathers
4. Federalism

- a. Under this system of government, both the national government and the state governments have certain powers
 - b. iCivics.org, Youtube videos, Constitution of the United States
5. Congress: The Legislative Branch
 - a. Divided into the House and Senate, this body exercises its powers by passing legislation, representing the people, and checking the power of the other branches of government.
 - b. Constitution of the U.S., iCivics.org, Congress.gov, proposed legislation
6. The Presidency
 - a. The head of the executive branch fills both the formal and informal roles and wields power that affects our government at every level.
 - b. Constitution of the U.S., 270twin.com, History channel videos
7. The Executive Branch at Work
 - a. This branch relies on a large federal bureaucracy to carry out its work and raise revenue.
 - b. Textbook, icivics.org, History channel videos
8. The Federal Courts and the Judicial Branch
 - a. The U.S. has a three-tiered system national court system, with the Supreme Court being at the top, which operates alongside the court systems of the states.
 - b. Jury Selection Role Play Activity, mock court trial, textbook, icivics.org
9. The Political Process
 - a. The work of government is accomplished through the political process. Public opinion, interest groups, and political parties all play a vital role in that process.
 - b. Textbook, iCivics.org lessons, interest groups websites, political platforms for Democratic and Republican parties
10. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
 - a. The Bill of Rights guarantees civil rights and individual liberties to American citizens and residents.
 - b. Under the Constitutional Amendments, Americans have both rights and responsibilities.
 - c. Textbook, iCivics.org, History Channel videos, Bill of Rights, Supreme Court cases
11. Formal assessment: Final test for Civics and American Government

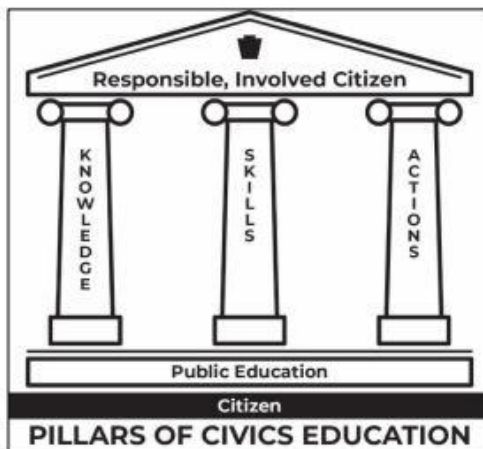
Act 35 Civics Assessment



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).

Quality Civic Education Programs



Research from respected organizations in civic engagement conclude that quality civics education programs have three strong pillars:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - a fundamental understanding of the structure of government and the processes by which government passes laws and makes policy
2. **SKILLS** - abilities necessary to participate as active and responsible citizens in democracy
3. **ACTIONS** – activities of citizens that include voting, participating in community meetings, volunteering, communicating with elected and appointed officials, signing petitions