

Political Science Concepts

The concepts listed below are an integral component of the global history and geography core curriculum:

- **Justice** means the fair, equal, proportional, or appropriate treatment rendered to individuals in interpersonal, societal, or government interactions.
- **Nation-state** means a geographic/political organization uniting people by a common government. Citizenship means membership in a community (neighborhood, school, region, state, nation, world) with its accompanying rights, responsibilities, and dispositions.
- **Political Systems** such as monarchies, dictatorships, and democracies address certain basic questions of government such as: What should a government have the power to do? What should a government not have the power to do? A political system also provides for ways that parts of that system interrelate and combine to perform specific functions of government.
- **Power** refers to the ability of people to compel or influence the actions of others. "Legitimate power is called authority."
- **Government** means the "formal institutions and processes of a politically organized society with authority to make, enforce, and interpret laws and other binding rules about matters of common interest and concern. Government also refers to the group of people, acting in formal political institutions at national, state, and local levels, who exercise decision making power or enforce laws and regulations." (Taken from: Civics Framework for the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP Civics Consensus Project, The National Assessment Governing Board, United States Department of Education, p. 19).
- **Decision Making** means the processes used to "monitor and influence public and civic life by working with others, clearly articulating ideals and interests, building coalitions, seeking consensus, negotiating compromise, and managing conflict." (Taken from: Civics Framework, p. 18).
- **Civic Values** refer to those important principles that serve as the foundation for our democratic form of government. These values include justice, honesty, self-discipline, due process, equality, majority rule with respect for minority rights, and respect for self, others, and property.
- **Human Rights** are those basic political, economic, and social rights that all human beings are entitled to, such as the right to life, liberty, and the security of person, and a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family. Human rights are inalienable and expressed by various United Nations documents including the United Nations Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights.