Essential Components of a Social Studies Program

Essential Academic Learning Requirements

Perspectives

- Historical
- Geographical
- Civics
  Sociopolitical
- Cultural
- Economics

Processes

- Construct meaning
- Inquiry and information
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Interpersonal/group processes
- Civic participation

Student Characteristics

- Students acquire and use disciplinary knowledge to construct meaning
- Students develop inquiry, interpersonal, and critical thinking skills for reasoned decisions and alternative viewpoints
- Students gather, explore, interpret, analyze, predict, hypothesize, and evaluate information to be informed citizens
- Students engage in civic discourse
- Students understand and respect the underlying value of a democratic society
- Students take active interest in public affairs and citizen participation

High Expectations

- Clear standards and continuous evaluation
- Formative and summative assessments on clear, consistent criteria

Classroom Environment

- Meaningful, engaging, memorable learning
- Integration of reading, writing, communication, technology, and other academic areas
- Inquiry
- Problem solving
- Civic discourse
- Critical thinking
- Interpersonal/group processes
- Multiple points of view
- Models democratic organization, procedures, and processes

Variety of Instructional Groupings:

- Whole Group
- Small Group
- Individual Instruction

Standards-Based Teaching and Learning

- Helping students acquire literacy in historical cultural, geographic, civic, and economic perspectives to make informed judgments and decisions through ongoing professional development
- Helping students engage in critical thinking, problem solving, reading and writing, interpersonal group processes and skills
- Helping students create own meaning for their experience
- Helping students to become informed, responsible, and responsive citizens in our democratic society
- Helping students make relationships and understand from multiple perspectives and from different time frames