

# Reading Public Schools

*Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow*



**History & Social Sciences Curriculum Guide**    **Course: AP US Government & Politics**

## Course Description

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, students will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

## Content Standards

### AP US Government & Politics

- Foundations of American Democracy
- Interactions Among Branches of Government
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
- Political Participation

## AP US Government Thinking Skills\*

- DEVELOPMENTS AND PROCESSES
- SOURCING AND SITUATION
- CLAIMS AND EVIDENCE IN SOURCES
- CONTEXTUALIZATION
- MAKING CONNECTIONS
- ARGUMENTATION

## Literacy Standards\*

- Read and comprehend history/social studies texts exhibiting complexity appropriate for grades 11-12.
- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Write arguments of discipline –specific content
- Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

*\*Not intended as an exhaustive list . Incorporation of Literacy and Practice Standards is fluid and ongoing.*

Three Pillars of the History and Social Science Framework



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities <u>may</u> include...
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Topics, Pacing, Reasoning Process, and Suggested Skills  
can be found within the  
College Board AP US Government & Politics Exam Description

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-us-government-and-politics-course-and-exam-description.pdf>



## History & Social Sciences Curriculum Guide Overview

<b>Curriculum Guide</b>	Curriculum guides are public documents aligned with the Massachusetts Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks. They focus on the set of standards that students will learn within certain disciplines at appropriate grade levels. Curriculum Guides are intended for teachers, parents, and the wider school community as an overview document of the course of study for the year.
<b>Curriculum Map</b>	Curriculum maps are internal documents utilized as planning tools for teachers. Curriculum maps keep a focus on the end-of-year standards and chart a course for the teaching and learning over the year. They are typically organized in a grade-level overview organized by month or marking period. Curriculum maps typically include: standards and expectations for the grade/content, essential skills/concepts, methods of assessment, and major content resources. Maps are never “done” as ongoing work of educators include revisions, additions, and revisits to the maps. They provide an overview for the year while also allowing educators to see a vertical picture of how the content develops as students progress through each grade.
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	These nine principles serve as the foundation for all History and Social Science education in Massachusetts. They can be viewed here: <a href="http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/2018-12.pdf">http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/2018-12.pdf</a>
<b>Literacy Standards</b>	In studying this content, students apply grade-appropriate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
<b>Content Standards</b>	The Content Standards describe what students should know and be able to do within each grade-level.
<b>Practice Standards</b>	These are “designed for integration with the Content Standards and Literacy Standards for History and Social Science, the seven practices encompass the processes of inquiry and research that are integral to a rich and robust social science curriculum and the foundation for active and responsible citizenship.” <a href="http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/2018-12.pdf">http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/2018-12.pdf</a>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	Essential questions are questions that are not answerable with an easy answer or a simple instruction. The purpose of essential questions is to provide opportunities for inquiry into the learning and act as an umbrella to anchor the unit/lesson.
<b>Key Activities</b>	Key Activities identified in Curriculum Guides are not intended to be exhaustive, nor are they intended to be prescriptive. The activities identified may function as a menu of curriculum resources from which educators identify the most appropriate tools to utilized in their classrooms. More specifics about identified resources are identified within the curriculum map documents.