

# Parent Workshop

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics End of Course (EOC) Exam

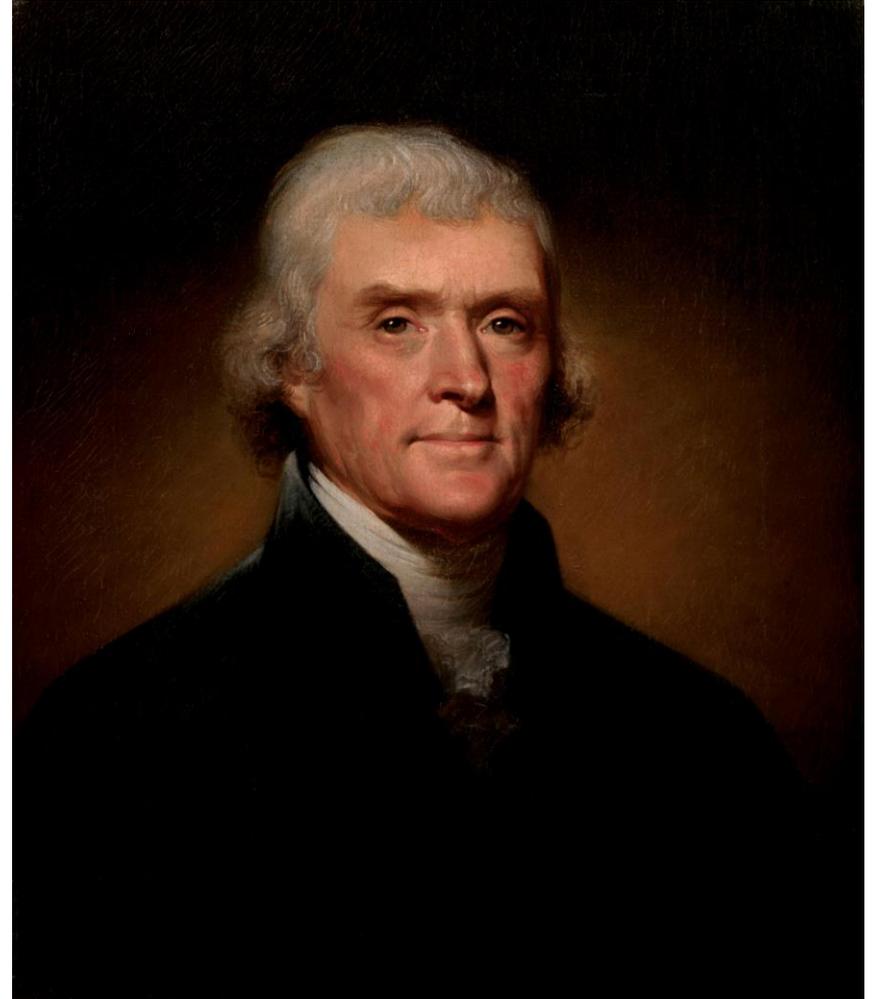
**Civics Teachers:  
Ms. Bonifazio, Mrs. Garcia & Mr. Sands**

# What is Civics?

- Civics is the study of the duties and rights of citizens.
- Civics is comprised of 3 parts U.S. Government and 1 part Economics.
- Civics education is fundamental to understanding and protecting our rights as citizens, as well as our duties and responsibilities as citizens.
- Students will be re-introduced to Civics in high school when they take the following two separate courses in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade:
  - U.S. Government and Microeconomics.

# Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and author of the *Declaration of Independence*

- *“Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.”*



# Why is Civics Important?

- Many citizens do not know enough about how government functions or the role that citizens play
- According to retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, “Only one-third of Americans can name the 3 branches of government, but 2/3 can name a judge on *American Idol*.” 6/2008
- Shocked by these statistics...
  - Former U.S. Representative Lou Frey and former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator, Bob Graham initiated ***The Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act***; bills (SB 1096, HB 105).



- *The Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act*
- First woman on the Supreme Court
  - 1981-2006
  - Helped develop [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org)

# The Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act

- Requires **7th graders to complete a civics course** and by 8th grade pass a civics test in order to be promoted to high school;
- Student performance results are used to calculate 30% of a student's course grade
- Requires Civics content be taught on all grade levels;
- Requires that the reading portion of language arts curriculum include civics education content for all grade levels;
- Requires the administration of end-of-course assessment (EOC) in **civics education at the middle school level**;
- Provides requirements for course grade & course credit;
- Requires inclusion of civics education **end-of-course assessment data in determining school grades.**

# What is the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade EOC?

- Based on *The Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act*, in 2010 the **Florida Legislature authorized the Florida EOC Assessments** to assess students' knowledge in Civics.
- The **EOC** or End of Course Exam was **developed by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)**.
- Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) students are at an **advantage**.
  - Unlike many other school districts throughout the state, Civics has been part of the M-DCPS curriculum for many years, therefore our teachers are more experienced in teaching the benchmarks that will be on the exam.
- Furthermore, G.W. Carver students are at an **advantage**: our students had 98% passing rate in 2015

# When Did Testing Begin?

- **The EOC was introduced in a three year phase:**
  - a. The **2012-2013** school year was a field test year and only selected middle schools were required to administer the exam to its' students. Although the exam did not "count", the data was analyzed by the State.
  - b. The **2013-2014** school year, the EOC was administered in all middle schools and **counted towards 30% of a student's final grade.**
  - c. **2015 – to the present:** it still counts as 30% of final grade

# How Are 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Prepared?

- At the beginning of the school year, students are administered a **Pre-test (baseline)** to gauge their prior knowledge of Civics
- New this Year: The District has suggested **9 Mini-Assessments for 13 of the Civic Topics**. The district has given the school a testing window to comply with each assessment. All mini-assessments will be completed by early April
- An **Interim** is given in January to gauge growth and a *Post-test* is administered around Spring Break, to record learning gains from the Pre-test.

# Our instruction is data-driven:

- This data is analyzed to determine which **specific course benchmark** has not been mastered by each student.
- If necessary benchmarks are revisited by the class or individual student.
- In addition to 7<sup>th</sup> grade instruction, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers introduce Civic concepts and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers remediate.

# What Will Be Covered on the Exam?

- The EOC is a computer-based, multiple-choice test that covers **35 core benchmarks** (standards of instruction) and **5 additional** project/skill based benchmarks.
- **Benchmarks are divided into 4 Reporting Categories:**
  1. Origins and Purposes of Law and Government (25%)
  2. Roles, Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens (25%)
  3. Government Policies and Political Processes (25%)
  4. Organization and Function of Government (25%)

# Scope and Sequence

1. Foundation of Government
2. Road to the Constitution
3. The Legislative Branch
4. The Executive Branch
5. The Judicial Branch
6. State and Local Government
7. Citizenship and Participation
8. Politics and Public Policy
9. Media and Influence
10. Civil Rights
11. Government and the Market



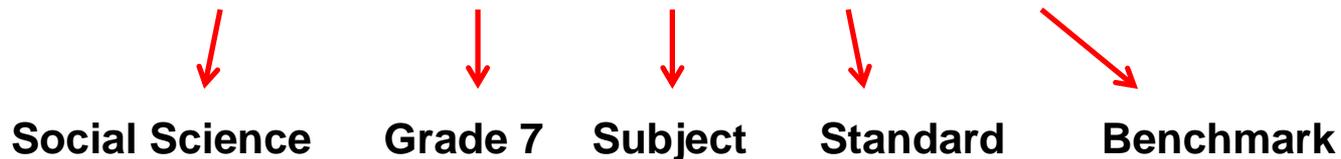
# Sample Benchmark

## **SS.7.C.1.4**

Standard: Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law and the American political system.

Benchmark: Analyze the ideas and complaints set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

# SS.7.C.1.4

A diagram illustrating the components of the code SS.7.C.1.4. The code is written in large black font. Below each part of the code, a red arrow points down to a corresponding label in black text. The labels are: Social Science (under SS), Grade 7 (under 7), Subject (under C), Standard (under 1), and Benchmark (under 4).

**Social Science**   **Grade 7**   **Subject**   **Standard**   **Benchmark**

# Cognitive Complexities

- **The exam will cover the following cognitive complexities:**
  - **Low: 15%–25%**
    - Test items rely on the **recall** and recognition of previously learned concepts and principles and involve the recognition or recall of information such as a fact, **definition**, term, or **simple procedure**. These items can involve recognizing information and **identifying characteristics**.
  - **Moderate: 45%–65%**
    - Test items involve more **flexible thinking** and involve the engagement of some mental processing **beyond recalling** or reproducing a response. They also involve **examining relationships, determining cause and effect, and determining significance**.
  - **High: 15%–25%**
    - Test items make **heavy demands on student thinking**. Students must engage in more **abstract reasoning, planning, analysis, judgment, and creative thought**. These test items require that the student think in an abstract and sophisticated way, often **involving multiple steps**.

## SAMPLE QUESTION SS.7.C.1.4

The passage below was written by Thomas Paine in his 1776 pamphlet, *Common Sense*.

**The powers of governing . . . in the hands of the king . . . himself such an . . . enemy to liberty . . . is he . . . a proper person to say to these colonies, “YOU SHALL MAKE NO LAWS BUT WHAT I PLEASE.”**

Source: Public Domain/Project Gutenberg

**1. Based on this passage, with which complaint against the king from the Declaration of Independence would Thomas Paine agree?**

- A. persecuting immigrant groups
- B. taking away religious rights
- \*C. taking away political rights**
- D. persecuting racial groups.

# What Can We Do to Assist Students?

- Ensure that your **child is in school DAILY** and completes their assignments.
- Keep tabs on **low scores in Civics class.**
- Ensure that your child gets **plenty of sleep** for several nights before the test.
- Make sure he/she **eats a good breakfast and lunch** on test day.
- **What to Expect:**
  - The EOC is been between 50-60 multiple choice questions.
  - Students must decide which of the four answer choices is the best possible answer by analyzing their options.
  - Students have 120 minutes to complete the EOC.

# During the Assessment

- **Pacing**

When students take the EOC, it is important to pace. If students work too quickly, they will be more likely to make mistakes.

Students should read each question and all of the answer choices carefully. If there's a question they can't answer, they should skip it and answer the next question. When they are done with the test, they can go back and reread those questions they did not understand.

- **Read Every Word**

Students must pay extra attention to every word in the questions. Just a word or two can change the meaning of the question. They should read each question twice to ensure that they understand what is being asked of them.

# During the Assessment

- **Make A Best Guess**

Students should ensure that they've answered every question before submitting the test. Any question left blank will be marked wrong, so it's better to make a best guess. Using the “**process of elimination**” to narrow the possibilities is a good strategy to use, as well as using “**context clues**” for words within a question or answer that they may not know.

- **Check For Completion**

After finishing the test, students should go back to the beginning and ensure they have answered all questions.

# What if my child doesn't pass the EOC?

- The FLDOE currently states that if a student does **NOT pass** (70% class grade + 30% test score) this **combined score**, they will not advance to high school.
  - Current remedies to any potential failures include students having to take a remedial Civics course in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade concurrently with 8<sup>th</sup> grade subjects and retaking the exam

# How is the EOC Factored In?

What grades will be assigned based on the NGSSS EOCs?

→

EOC Score	Grade assigned for 30% calculation
5 or 4	A
3	B
2 or 1	D

→

Teacher Final Grade	FINAL GRADE		
	EOC Score = 5 or 4 30% as 'A'	EOC Score = 3 30% as 'B'	EOC Score = 2 or 1 30% as 'D'
A	A	A	B
B	B	B	C
C	B	C	C
D	C	C	D
F	D	F	F

- **As of 9/2015: Students who fail the Civics course and the Civics EOC will need to take the course and the EOC again**
- **Additional FLDOE remedies will be made available upon disclosure**

**2016-2017**  
**CIVICS EOC EXAM**  
**DATE:**

- **April 19th - May 19th**

**Thank you for  
coming and have  
a good evening**



**Questions???**