

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and the natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.

Social studies prepares young people to be knowledgeable, informed citizens who possess an understanding of the values and beliefs of a democratic society. Additionally, social studies motivates young people to become actively involved in their community, nation, and world. A comprehensive social studies program:

- ◆ emphasizes content, concepts, and skills from the social sciences, the humanities, and, where appropriate, mathematics, and the natural sciences;
- ◆ reflects a clear commitment to democratic beliefs and values;
- ◆ encourages civic responsibility and active civic participation;
- ◆ promotes high expectations for all students;
- ◆ incorporates a multicultural perspective;
- ◆ reinforces the development of a global perspective;
- ◆ promotes understanding of social, political, and economic institutions;
- ◆ encourages student involvement in community service;

- ◆ focuses on the identification of and potential solutions to local, national, and world problems;
- ◆ involves students in their learning by using a variety of teaching strategies and instructional materials; and
- ◆ promotes an interdisciplinary approach to learning.