

# **IEP American Government Course Objectives and Learning Standards**

## **Course Description:**

This course is for all IEP students with goals/objectives in the area of Social Studies, reading and/or language. The focus of this course is centered upon the student as tomorrow's voter and member of society. The following topics will be covered: American citizenship; personal freedoms; state, local, and federal governments; political parties; and special interest groups. During this course, all students must pass the U.S. and Missouri Constitution tests. The need for law, the basic Constitutional foundations for law and an over view of our legal justice system will be taught.

## **Student Course Objectives:**

**To develop a basic understanding of how government works in order to make appropriate decisions, face and solve real-life problems and comprehend the needs and concerns of your community.**

**The student will ...**

- \*define vocabulary terms/ideas in his/her own words
- \*place terms/ideas in historical context
- \*display terms/ideas by using them in essays and in class discussions

**To provide a background to the origins of American Government**

**The student will ...**

- \*explain how ancient Greeks, Romans and English practice Democracy
- \*discuss how self-government got it's start
- \*discuss religious freedom
- \*understand the significance of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Magna Carta, and the Bill of Rights
- \*describe the actions of the First and Second Continental Congress
- \*outline how the Constitution was written and passed
- \*identify the six basic principles

**To learn about Congress, Legislative Branch and how federal laws are made.**

**The student will ...**

- \*name and define the two houses of Congress
- \*list the differences between the houses
- \*list the powers of Congress
- \*explain the duties and responsibilities of our senators and representatives
- \*explain where laws come from
- \*list the steps of how a bill becomes a law

**To learn about the Executive Branch and the-voting process in the United States**

**The student will ...**

- \*identify the role and responsibilities of the presidency
- \*explain the duties of the vice-presidency
- \*explain the duties of the cabinet an special councils
- \*explain the structure of the executive branch (department and agencies)
- \*explain how presidential elections take place and the electoral college
- \*define voting rights in the U.S.
- \*define and describe two major political parties

**To learn about the Judicial Branch of Government.**

**The student will ...**

- \*identify the role and responsibilities of the U.S. District courts, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court
- \*identify the types of cases handled by the federal government
- \*identify and describe two court cases that show how our laws have changed over the years.
- \*explain how judges are selected

**To Explain the purpose, powers and limits of State Government, how legislatures are organized and how state laws are made.**

**The student will ...**

- \*describe limits and powers of state government
- \*describe ways states must work with the federal government
- \*describe how state laws are made and how people can take part in government
- \*describe the law making process

**To learn how states and the state of Missouri is governed.**

**The student will ...**

- \*explain the roles and powers of state governors and the duties of other elected members of the executive branch
- \*identify four executive branch departments
- \*compare and contrast how the job of the governor and the U.S. President are similar/ different

**To learn about the state level court system.**

**The student will ...**

- \*identify the kinds of cases heard in state courts
- \*explain the roles of judges and juries
- \*explain the roles and responsibilities of state courts of appeals and the state supreme court.

**To learn about government at the local level:**

**The student will ...**

- \*define the purpose of local government
- \*explain how local government interacts with state offices
- \*explain why communities have local laws
- \*explain how local laws are made
- \*describe ways citizens can take part in local government
- \*identify different kinds of local courts
- \*explain the rights of arrested persons
- \*describe the process of jury duty

**To learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the U.S., Missouri, and Local Government.**

**The Student will ...**

- \*describe the five basic freedoms in the first amendment
- \*explain how equal protection and due process work
- \*define equal opportunity
- \*explain the importance of the right to privacy, the rights of the accused and trial by jury
- \*explain how our rights as Americans bring about responsible citizenship
- \*list and describe types of taxes