



Pennsylvania ACT 35 Civic Engagement

In 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed into law Act 35 of 2018 (Appendix A) which requires that all school entities administer a locally developed assessment of U.S. history, government, and civics at least once to students during grades 7-12, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

This civic knowledge toolkit is designed to assist school entities in the development of an assessment that both satisfies the required elements of Act 35 and aligns with State Academic Standards for Civics and Government, Economics, Geography, and History.

The resources were compiled by PDE in consultation with the Civics Advisory Council comprised of national, state, and local experts in civic education. The toolkit of resources is available online in the Standards Aligned System (www.pdesas.org) and the PDE website (www.education.pa.gov).



[PDE Act 35 Civics Toolkit](#)

- ❑ **[Act 35 Civics Assessment of Civics Knowledge Introduction](#)**
- ❑ **[Act 35 Civics Pillar 1 - Civic Knowledge](#)**
- ❑ **[Act 35 Civics Pillar 2 - Civics Skills](#)**
- ❑ **[Act 35 Civics Pillar 3 - Actions](#)**
- ❑ **[Act 35 Civics Sample Civics Knowledge Assessment](#)**
- ❑ **[Act 35 Civics Appendix A – Act 35 of 2018](#)**

The Marple Newtown School District will assess students during the spring of their 12th grade year. The district created assessment will include select questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Test <https://my.uscis.gov/en/prep/test/civics/view> .

Secondary Social Studies educators, Dr. Michael Karpyn and Michelle McAlea, are serving as district representatives on the Delaware County Intermediate Unit's network of civics educators in Southeastern Pennsylvania.



Pillars of Civic Education

Pillar 1: Civic Knowledge

The knowledge pillar underscores planned instruction to support student understanding of concepts of the Academic Standards. Assessment focuses on the four critical components of civics education: • Principles and Documents of Government • Rights and Responsibilities • How Government Works • International Relationships.

Pillar 2: Civic Skills

The knowledge pillar underscores planned instruction to support student understanding of concepts of the Academic Standards. Assessment focuses on the four critical components of civics education: • Principles and Documents of Government • Rights and Responsibilities • How Government Works • International Relationships.

Pillar 3 Actions

Responsible and involved citizens take an active role through a myriad of actions and dispositions:

- Acceptance of diversity
- Involvement in the community
- Assuming responsibility for choices
- Government service – local, state, and national