Prepared Graduates:
8. Analyze the origins, structures, and functions of American government to evaluate the impact on its citizens and the global society.

Grade Level Expectation:
2. Understand the purposes, roles and limitations of the structures and functions of American government and the subject matter incorporated in the United States citizenship test.

Evidence Outcomes:

Students Can:

a. Correctly answer the 100 questions of the United States Citizenship test.

b. Describe the origins, foundations, purposes, and limitations of government and include the contribution of key philosophers, American historical figures and documents.

c. Identify the structure, function, roles and current members of American government and their relationship to democratic values.

d. Analyze and explain the importance of the principles of democracy and the inherent competition among values. For example: freedom and security, individual rights and common good, general welfare, and rights and responsibilities.

e. Analyze the role of America’s founding documents and the evolution of their interpretation through governmental action and court cases. For example: the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

f. Understand the role of the American judicial system and evaluate the effectiveness of the justice system in protecting life, liberty, and property for all persons in the United States.

g. Analyze how current global issues impact American foreign policy. For example: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, immigration or foreign trade agreements.

h. Compare and contrast how other systems of government function. For example: authoritarian regimes and parliamentary systems.

Academic Context and Connections:

Colorado Essential Skills:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of the role and responsibilities of different levels and types of government and the facts, principles and history incorporated in the United States Citizenship test. (Civic/Interpersonal Skills; Communication)

2. Interpret Explain the meaning and information and draw conclusions about the origins of the structures of America’s governmental institutions. (Entrepreneurial Skills: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving).

3. Apply knowledge of government to develop appropriate and workable solutions that address complex local, state, national and global problems using interdisciplinary perspectives. (Civic/Interpersonal Skills: Global/Cultural Awareness).

Inquiry Questions:

1. What are the most important democratic ideals and practices?

2. What are the various levels and roles of the U.S. system of government?

3. Who are the elected officials who impact your life and how?

4. What would society look like if several landmark court cases had been decided differently?

5. What are a U.S. citizen’s rights and responsibilities?

6. How does government best protect individual rights and the rights of minorities, yet have majority rule?

7. What ways can you actively engage in American democracy and impact its system of government?
8. What would United States government look like with no checks and balances or another mix of those limitations?

9. How has American federalism evolved and changed over time?
10. How has the concept of American Democracy developed throughout history?

11. How have domestic and foreign policy impacted American Democracy?
12. Why should U.S. Citizens be informed of issues related to foreign governments?

Nature and Skills of Civics: (possibly add examples)
1. Civic minded individuals know the facts and subject matter of the United States Citizenship test, the test that all foreign nationals must pass before becoming a U.S. citizen.
2. Civic minded individuals understand the concept of “rule of law” and its role in policies and practices of government.
3. Civic minded individuals know the political theories that contributed to the foundation and development of the structures of government and their meaning today. (examples)
4. Civic minded individuals understand how the U.S. system of government functions at the local, state, tribal, and federal level in respect to separation of powers and checks and balances and their impact on policy.
5. Civic minded individuals understand the effectiveness of government institutions and the limits on government in addressing social and political problems.
6. Civic minded individuals gather and analyze data from multiple sources to look for patterns and create hypotheses regarding national and foreign policy.
7. Civic minded individuals can listen to multiple perspectives in a respectful manner, as part of civil discourse.
8. Civic minded individuals can work effectively individually, and in groups, to influence public policy and the actions of government.

Disciplinary, Information, and Media Literacy:
1. Ask meaningful questions to analyze and evaluate information and ideas.
2. Determine central ideas in a text to provide an accurate summary and connect the relationship between key details and ideas.
3. Cite specific textual evidence to support the analysis of primary and secondary sources to gain insight into the text as a whole.
4. Integrate multiple perspectives to gain a coherent understanding of the whole.
5. Seek information from varied sources and perspectives to develop informed opinions and creative solutions.
6. Use media literacy skills to locate multiple valid sources of information regarding the foundations, structures, and functions of government.
7. Write content-specific arguments in which they state a claim, and organize the evidence in well-reasoned, meaningful ways.
8. Synthesize information from multiple sources to demonstrate understanding of a topic.
9. Delineate a speaker’s argument, identify specific claims, and distinguish if claims are supported by reason and evidence. Critically analyze messages in the media to detect propaganda, censorship and bias.