

# Letter to Parent or Guardian

Dear Florida Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to welcome your student to the seventh-grade civics course! This course is important for preparing students to be civically-engaged adults in the future and for developing the skills and knowledge needed to pass the Civics End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment required for Florida’s schools.

The EOC assessments are administered by the school. The tests take place at the end of the school year in 160 minute-long sessions. The tests are computer-based, which means your student will answer questions in a digital format. The school will provide accommodations for students with documented IEP or 504 plans. More information about the EOC assessment and schedule can be found on the Florida Department of Education’s website.

Our school will be using instructional materials called *Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions* to help students master the seventh-grade Florida civics benchmarks and skills needed to pass the EOC assessment. Students will accomplish this by analyzing our country’s political system and even by solving problems that can help the state and local community.

Throughout the year, your student will be supported by a wealth of resources. In *Civics Alive!*, students will have access to an understandable and straightforward text, an Interactive Student Notebook for processing and reflection, games for self-assessment, real-life photos from historical events, helpful diagrams, videos, and a practice exam. Along the way, teachers will track students’ progress and guide them toward mastering each benchmark.

## **What does this mean for your student?**

Students will find these challenging topics pretty fascinating as they answer questions about their world, such as “How do Supreme Court decisions affect the United States?” and “How are your rights defined and protected under the Constitution?” They will encounter real-world case studies and examine Supreme Court Cases. Additionally, students will be taking practice questions and tests throughout the year to familiarize them with the EOC assessment format and question styles.

## **How can parents or guardians help?**

There are a number of ways you can support your student as they tackle civics and prepare for the EOC assessment.

- Learn more about the EOC assessment and Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards by visiting the Florida Department of Education website.
- If your student has an IEP or 504 plan, confirm with the school that they have advance notice of all necessary information before the day of the EOC assessment.
- As the year progresses, encourage your student to think deeply, ask questions about government and politics, and plan ways to find answers and solve problems.
- Just as importantly, ask your student to tell you what they are doing in civics this year.

I look forward to preparing the class to master the civics skills and knowledge needed to ace the EOC assessment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,