

# Civics Education: Evaluation Strategy

---

Assessing the effectiveness of curriculum is of critical importance. Any course must have a purpose and the designers of the course must match the actual learner outcomes with what was intended. The most prevalent evaluation strategy will be to measure the defined learner outcomes as listed with the results of chapter and unit assessments give by classroom teachers. For each of the learner outcomes listed evaluations will be included within the classroom to measure the students' comprehension of the courses core concepts and desires. It is up to the individual teachers to devise classroom evaluations which will measure the learner outcomes listed for the curriculum.

In addition the progress of students on the Ohio Graduation Social Studies Test will be monitored. The strands form the OGT that are encompassed by this curriculum will be monitored. After viewing student data we will be able to more closely fine tune the content of the Civics course to meet the needs of the students.

We will also employ a less formal but yet more important form of evaluation for the curriculum. We will measure the amount of student participation in society outside of the classroom and school. We all know that many students are active in school related extra-curricular activities. However if the primary aim of Civics is to create engaged citizens then we must attempt to measure the level of engagement of our students.

The district will conduct a survey at the outset of the course to measure the frequency and type, if any, of student involvement in organizations or political groups outside of the classroom. Specifically we will be looking for volunteer activities, working for a political campaign, working with community organizations or church groups. This measurement will serve as a baseline with which to measure future gains. This survey will be conducted the following years to measure if there is an increase in student involvement as the students progress through high school.

The last of the measurement types is by far the most accurate in terms of measuring the effectiveness of the Civics curriculum. As clearly established in the statement of purpose, political participation among young people is at an all time low (the election of 2008 notwithstanding). This trend is very alarming as the very existence of successful democracies hinge on the meaningful participation of its citizenry. Beyond learning the definitions of federalism, bicameralism and gerrymandering developing engaged citizens is the true measure of any course on civics.