

## **Introduction to Government Cecil County Public Schools**

While studying Government, students will investigate both historical and current elements of the structures of government, judicial systems, interactions between the Legislative and Executive branches, and functions of government.

Utilizing Maryland **State Curriculum Standards**, Government students will focus on developing understandings of four macro-concepts throughout the course: **Structures** of Government, **Judicial Systems**, **Interactions** of the Executive and Legislative Branches, and **Functions** of Government. These four macro-concepts are to be integrated with the standards. The concepts are the catalyst for teaching the standards in depth; while micro concepts will provide the depth of learning in each unit. Government students will build upon their understandings of the standards; resulting in the transfer of the standards across all disciplines.

Government teachers will have access to a Course Organizer providing an overview for instruction for the course. Each unit is represented by a macro-concept that serves as a lens through which the content will be explored. Government teachers will also have access to a unit planner and a unit organizer for each unit. Each unit organizer reflects Maryland State Curriculum Standards. The units are intended to be taught in the identified sequences and conceptually as indicated below:

**Unit 1: Structures of Government** is about how and why government is created. Students will investigate the purposes of government, examine forms and types of government, and make connections between historic documents and principles of democracy.

**Unit 2: Judicial Systems** is about how the government balances protecting rights and maintaining order. Students will examine the structure of the courts, compare civil and criminal law, and understand how the Constitution's interpretation has changed over time by analyzing amendments and Supreme Court cases.

**Unit 3: Interactions of the Executive and Legislative Branches** is about how the legislative and executive branches interact when making and enforcing laws. Students will analyze how demographic patterns affect government, investigate how the legislative and executive branches attempt to achieve balance while competing for power, understand how citizens and groups influence government, and evaluate how the government has attempted to address equity issues.

**Unit 4: Functions of Government** is about government decision-making to address concerns. Students will examine how the government creates and regulates economic, environmental, public health, and foreign policy. Students will learn about the importance of civic participation by taking informed action.