



CIVICS

Citizen/Community Member Content Standards



Adapted from the Equipped for the Future Role Maps (used with permission from the Center for Literacy, Education & Employment (CLEE), University of Tennessee, Equipped for the Future (EFF) project)

Civics Content Area Overview

The Texas Adult Education Content Standards v. 4 are organized around six broad Content Areas. The Citizen/Community Member Content Standards are Content Area V. Within each Content Area, there are Subareas that delineate the different topics within the Content Area. Subareas typically consist of several Content Standards and Benchmarks. This structure assists in breaking a broad Content Area into manageable groupings of information.

Content Area V – Citizen/Community Member

Subareas:

V.1 – Become and Stay Involved

Citizens and community members find and use information to identify and solve problems and contribute to the community.

V.2 – Form and Express Opinions and Ideas

Citizens and community members develop a personal voice and use it individually and as a group.

V.3 – Work Together

Citizens and community members interact with other people to get things done toward a common purpose.

V.4 – Take Action to Strengthen Communities

Citizens and community members exercise their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups to improve the world around them.

Citizen/Community Member Standards (content area): Effective citizens and community members take informed action to make a positive difference in their lives, communities, and world.

BROAD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY: Subareas

Subarea 1: Become and Stay Informed

Citizens and community members find and use information to identify and solve problems and contribute to the community:

Subarea 2: Form and Express Opinions and Ideas

Citizens and community members develop a personal voice and use it individually and as a group:

Subarea 3: Work Together

Citizens and community members interact with other people to get things done toward a common purpose:

Subarea 4: Take Action to Strengthen Communities

Citizens and community members exercise their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups to improve the world around them:

KEY ACTIVITIES

Subarea Standards

- A. Identify, monitor, and anticipate problems, community needs, strengths, and resources for yourself and others
- B. Recognize and understand human, legal, and civic rights and responsibilities for yourself and others
- C. Figure out how the system that affects an issue works
- D. Identify how to have an impact and recognize that individuals can make a difference
- E. Find, interpret, analyze, and use diverse sources of information, including personal experience

Subarea Standards

- A. Strengthen and express a sense of self that reflects personal history, values, beliefs, and roles in the larger community
- B. Learn from others' experiences and ideas
- C. Communicate so that others understand
- D. Reflect on and reevaluate your own opinions and ideas

Subarea Standards

- A. Get involved in the community and get others involved
- B. Respect others and work to eliminate discrimination and prejudice
- C. Define common values, visions, and goals
- D. Manage and resolve conflict
- E. Participate in group processes and decision making

Subarea Standards

- A. Help yourself and others
- B. Educate others
- C. Influence decision makers and hold them accountable
- D. Provide leadership within the community

BROAD AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Subarea 1: Become and Stay Informed

Citizens and community members find and use information to identify and solve problems and contribute to the community.

Subarea Standards

Benchmarks (How? How well? With what outcomes?)

A. Identify, monitor, and anticipate problems, community needs, strengths, and resources for yourself and others

1. Talk with people knowledgeable about the problem or need.
2. Ask questions that produce relevant information.
3. Monitor a variety of media resources routinely, including local and national newspapers, television, radio, magazines, and the Internet.
4. Review and revise information about needs and strengths in order to stay on top of the situation.
5. Connect issues of personal concern to community needs and problems.

B. Recognize and understand human, legal, and civic rights and responsibilities for yourself and others

1. Identify instances of injustice and illegality.
2. Base decisions on knowledge of rights and responsibilities.
3. Take responsibility for own actions.

C. Figure out how the system that affects an issue works

1. Use relevant services and agencies to gain access to or understand the system.
2. Identify formal and informal rules.
3. Identify positions of power and powerlessness with the system.
4. Identify personal relationship to the system.
5. Determine the system's timetable, calendar, and other schedules and plan actions accordingly.
6. Predict correctly the conditions and changes that will result from a course of action.

BROAD AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Subarea 1: Become and Stay Informed, *continued*

Citizens and community members find and use information to identify and solve problems and contribute to the community.

Subarea Standards

Benchmarks (How? How well? With what outcomes?)

D. Identify how to have an impact and recognize that individuals can make a difference

1. Find and review historical examples and precedents to determine best course of action.
2. Analyze the situation with other people to take action.
3. Identify risks and potential consequences.
4. Plan doable steps toward goal.

E. Find, interpret, analyze, and use diverse sources of information, including personal experience

1. Seek up-to-date and historical information supporting all sides of the issue.
2. Identify biases and hidden agendas in the presentation of the information.
3. Distinguish between fact and fiction.
4. Take into consideration the role and influence of the media.
5. Apply new information thoughtfully in real-life situations.

BROAD AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Subarea 2: Form and Express Opinions and Ideas

Citizens and community members develop a personal voice and use it individually and as a group.

Subarea Standards

Benchmarks (How? How well? With what outcomes?)

A. Strengthen and express a sense of self that reflects your personal history, values, beliefs, and roles in the larger community

1. Place yourself in history as to race, gender, and geography.
2. Identify your own perspectives, points of view, values, and beliefs.
3. Identify your own roles in larger community.
4. Exhibit self-confidence and personal authority.
5. Share your own culture and beliefs with others.

B. Learn from others' experiences and ideas

1. Find effective role models or mentors and act on their guidance.
2. Ask questions that reflect what the speaker has said.
3. Integrate new ideas and experiences gained from reading, listening, and viewing into own thinking.
4. Recognize and articulate points of view different than your own.

C. Communicate so that others understand

1. Use a variety of ways for communicating.
2. Know who the audience is and how to reach its members.
3. Organize thoughts, opinions, and ideas.
4. Defend your own position and opinions.
5. Use communication strategies that help build consensus and understanding.

D. Reflect on and reevaluate personal opinions and ideas

1. Distinguish between personal opinions and facts.
2. Seek and use feedback from others.
3. Identify how your original position has changed.
4. Incorporate reflections and new ideas into action.

BROAD AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Subarea 3: Work Together

Citizens and community members interact with other people to get things done toward a common purpose.

Subarea Standards	Benchmarks (How? How well? With what outcomes?)
A. Get involved in the community and get others involved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer time and resources. 2. Participate in community events. 3. Reach out to a diversity of people. 4. Network with others. 5. Support the efforts of others actively. 6. Orient newcomers to the group or community.
B. Respect others and work to eliminate discrimination and prejudice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize and address instances of prejudice and stereotyping. 2. Create an environment in which others are included and welcomed. 3. Encourage and consider a wide range of opinions and beliefs. 4. Work well in diverse situations and with diverse groups.
C. Define common values and goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify common views and disagreements through open discussion. 2. Achieve consensus or compromise on the priorities and purposes of the group.
D. Manage and resolve conflict	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address conflict and resistance openly and persistently, in a timely manner. 2. Use a variety of techniques to find common ground. 3. Focus on issues rather than personality. 4. Analyze what happens in conflict situations and use this knowledge in the future.
E. Participate in group processes and decision making	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the roles of group members. 2. Contribute to planning and implementing activities. 3. Follow through on group decisions.

BROAD AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Subarea 4: Take Action to Strengthen Communities

Citizens and community members exercise their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups to improve the world around them.

Subarea Standards	Benchmarks (How? How well? With what outcomes?)
A. Help yourself and others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess personal needs and strengths to determine and/or inform participation in community activities. 2. Manage and share personal resources, including time, money, and materials. 3. Advocate for yourself and others. 4. Report crimes and injustices.
B. Educate others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share information and knowledge from personal experience and other sources. 2. Use methods appropriate to the audience and event, such as flyers, forums, speeches, and public service announcements. 3. Inform others of their rights. 4. Solicit feedback on effectiveness of educational activity.
C. Influence decision makers and hold them accountable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and gain access to decision makers. 2. Express views to elected officials by publicly challenging officials, letter writing, or phone calling. 3. Work for and support a candidate for public office. 4. Vote.
D. Provide leadership within the community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate and maintain a community activity. 2. Serve as a resource or role model. 3. Serve on committees, boards, and other positions of responsibility. 4. Develop leadership skills in others. 5. Represent and express the opinions and needs of others accurately. 6. Follow through on commitments to individuals and organizations. 7. Document, evaluate, and reflect on action taken.