

The Citizen's Compass

K-12 learning roadmap

Planning edition 0.3 | September 29, 2026

This is a plan of topics and their order, not a textbook. It contains 13 levels and 52 proposed unit slots. The two introductory sections currently available provide seven lessons. They do not complete kindergarten. The remaining 50 proposed units need research, detailed instruction, practice, and review.

Four books follow one sequence

The Student Book supplies reading and illustrated explanations. The Adult Teaching Guide supports instruction. The Student Workbook contains matched activities and checks. The Answer and Assessment Guide supplies keys and criteria. Each component uses the same unit and lesson IDs.

Levels and readiness

Grade labels organize increasing complexity, not age deadlines. Beginning readers need adult read-aloud and support. Detailed placement instruments and a comprehensive topic coverage audit remain in development. Proposed demonstrations below are planning targets, not released assessments.

Kindergarten entry

Adult-supported observation, communication, and access adaptations; no independent reading required

Reading and page design

One picture and one concrete idea at a time. Short phrases and sentences, usually 2-6 words. Adult introduces unfamiliar labels; independent reading uses explicitly taught sounds and words.

CIV-K-01 | Groups, roles, and shared tasks

3 introductory lessons available; full strand coverage remains unfinished.

CIV-K-02 | Rules and their purposes

4 introductory lessons available; full strand coverage remains unfinished.

CIV-K-03 | Needs, wants, and choices

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-K-04 | Listening and describing different views

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Identify useful roles in a safe shared task
- Explain a rule's stated purpose and check an observed result
- Distinguish a stated preference from evidence that an option meets a goal

Research priorities

- Check early-childhood guidance on shared tasks, supported turns, and concrete problem solving
- Prepare concrete needs, wants, and choices examples for the remaining kindergarten units

Level 1

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level K; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Short familiar sentences and brief decodable passages. Picture support, repeated sentence patterns, and one clear direction per activity.

CIV-1-01 | Families and community institutions

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-1-02 | Leaders, responsibilities, and rules

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-1-03 | Goods, services, and exchange

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-1-04 | Community inquiry and participation

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Describe a function of a community institution
- Distinguish a good from a service in familiar examples
- Ask a community question and record information that addresses it

Research priorities

- Verify institution examples with their own public descriptions
- Check goods, services, and exchange terminology with public economic-education sources

Level 2

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 1; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Short paragraphs with familiar vocabulary. Introduce new words beside concrete pictures and examples; support a gradual move from decoding to fluent meaning.

CIV-2-01 | Local government and public services

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-2-02 | Citizenship and participation

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-2-03 | Resources, work, and saving

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-2-04 | Cultural practices and respectful comparison

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Describe an example of local government and its public services
- Explain a simple choice involving resources, work, or saving
- Compare two documented cultural practices without generalizing to every group member

Research priorities

- Use dated local-government sources and identify the jurisdiction
- Source cultural examples with community context and explain within-group variation

Level 3

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 2; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Connected paragraphs and short sections. Explain subject words in context; use labeled pictures, simple tables, and worked examples.

CIV-3-01 | Levels of government

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-3-02 | Rights, responsibilities, and deliberation

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-3-03 | Markets and opportunity cost

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-3-04 | Media messages and evidence

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Distinguish responsibilities assigned to different government levels in a taught example
- Identify the opportunity cost of a specified choice
- Separate a media claim from the evidence offered for it

Research priorities

- Verify government responsibilities with official federal, state, and local sources
- Check elementary economic definitions and select age-appropriate authentic media samples

Level 4

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 3; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Several linked paragraphs with headings. Define new terms, explain diagrams, and connect concrete examples to simple generalizations.

CIV-4-01 | State, local, and tribal governments

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-4-02 | Constitutions and civic institutions

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-4-03 | Production, trade, and public goods

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-4-04 | Community research and service planning

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Compare the documented roles of state, local, and tribal institutions
- Trace a production or trade example through its participants
- Develop a community-service proposal with a stated need and evidence

Research priorities

- Use tribal governments' own sources and explain sovereignty accurately
- Verify constitutions, public-goods examples, and community data before lesson drafting

Level 5

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 4; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Longer explanations broken into purposeful sections. Introduce comparisons, multi-step examples, and simple source notes with guided practice.

CIV-5-01 | United States constitutional framework

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-5-02 | Branches, powers, and limits

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-5-03 | Households, businesses, and government

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-5-04 | Sources, perspectives, and civic discussion

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Explain a constitutional power and a limit using a supplied provision
- Describe an interaction among United States government branches
- Compare perspectives on a civic question and identify each source's evidence

Research priorities

- Read relevant Constitution and amendment texts with official interpretive resources
- Check household, business, and government examples for economic accuracy and current institutional facts

Level 6

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 5; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Clear middle-grade prose. Define technical vocabulary, separate facts from inferences, and scaffold multi-step reasoning with diagrams and examples.

CIV-6-01 | Comparative communities and cultures

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-6-02 | Government systems and institutions

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-6-03 | Markets, incentives, and trade

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-6-04 | Information literacy and current-event inquiry

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Compare two government systems using defined institutional features
- Explain a trade or incentive example while identifying a simplifying assumption
- Evaluate a current-event source for date, author, evidence, and missing context

Research priorities

- Distinguish constitutional descriptions from observed institutional practice
- Select current-event sources with original records and clearly dated factual claims

Level 7

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 6; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

More sustained explanatory reading. Build arguments from evidence and model how to read charts, excerpts, and multi-step procedures.

CIV-7-01 | Constitutional principles and federalism

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-7-02 | Participation, law, and civic change

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-7-03 | Personal finance and consumer choices

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-7-04 | Claims, statistics, and media framing

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Explain federalism using an example with identified legal sources
- Compare two consumer choices using stated costs and constraints
- Identify how a chart or headline can frame the same underlying information

Research priorities

- Verify jurisdiction and effective dates of legal examples
- Check finance calculations, consumer terminology, and statistical displays against original sources

Level 8

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 7; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Longer texts and increasingly independent analysis. Explain abstract ideas through examples before formal language and applications.

CIV-8-01 | Civil rights and civic responsibilities

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-8-02 | Courts, policy, and democratic processes

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-8-03 | National and global economies

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-8-04 | Evidence-based community proposals

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Explain a civil-rights issue using documented institutions and events
- Trace a specified policy or court process with its jurisdiction
- Construct a community proposal that acknowledges costs, benefits, and counterevidence

Research priorities

- Use official court and government records alongside contextual historical sources
- Check economic data definitions and distinguish national averages from subgroup outcomes

Level 9

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 8; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

High-school subject prose with precise definitions, worked methods, source context, and explicitly labeled interpretation.

CIV-9-01 | Political systems and civic theories

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-9-02 | United States institutions in practice

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-9-03 | Microeconomics and market limitations

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-9-04 | Cultural and social inquiry

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Compare political theories as attributed frameworks
- Explain a microeconomic model and identify an assumption that limits it
- Analyze a social or cultural claim using evidence without treating a group as uniform

Research priorities

- Verify quotations and definitions in primary political texts
- Research market limitations and cultural cases through original data and relevant scholarship

Level 10

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 9; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Extended explanations and evidence comparison. Scaffold unfamiliar specialist terms while increasing independent synthesis and application.

CIV-10-01 | Constitutional interpretation and case analysis

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-10-02 | Macroeconomics and economic indicators

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-10-03 | Global institutions and international relations

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-10-04 | Media, evidence, and public argument

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Distinguish a court holding from arguments and commentary about it
- Interpret an economic indicator using its official definition
- Evaluate a public argument by tracing its factual claims to original evidence

Research priorities

- Check case status, jurisdiction, and later legal developments
- Verify macroeconomic revisions and international institutions' current mandates with official sources

Level 11

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 10; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Sustained analysis, complex sources, and multi-step projects. Explain assumptions, limits, and alternative interpretations supported by evidence.

CIV-11-01 | Civil liberties, rights, and legal processes

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-11-02 | Taxes, credit, insurance, and financial decisions

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-11-03 | Policy analysis and tradeoffs

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-11-04 | Research ethics and community participation

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Explain a legal-process example while identifying jurisdiction and date
- Compare financial scenarios using fees, risk, and explicit assumptions
- Evaluate a policy proposal using stated criteria and distribution of effects

Research priorities

- Verify current tax, credit, and insurance rules without presenting individualized advice
- Check policy datasets, research ethics, and permissions for community participation

Level 12

Demonstrated prerequisite skills from level 11; placement is skill-based

Reading and page design

Advanced secondary reading and independent inquiry. Use precise subject language, transparent sources, and capstone applications; optional extensions remain labeled.

CIV-12-01 | Comparative governance and contemporary issues

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-12-02 | Economic models and competing explanations

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-12-03 | Independent source evaluation and deliberation

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

CIV-12-04 | Civic research and contribution capstone

Planned. Topic research, lessons, exercises, and assessments are not yet released.

Proposed demonstrations

- Compare governance responses to a current issue using dated evidence
- Evaluate competing economic explanations through their assumptions and predictions
- Produce a civic capstone that distinguishes empirical findings from value judgments

Research priorities

- Recheck contemporary institutional and legal facts immediately before release
- Audit the sequence for rights, economic literacy, participation, and source-evaluation gaps

Research and production gates

Each future topic requires authoritative evidence, explicit prerequisites, taught-before-tested content, cumulative practice, keyed assessment, illustrations that support the concept, and editorial and educational review. Framework references do not establish full coverage. No complete KDP edition is ready.

Sources for current sections

Office of Head Start - Social and Emotional Learning

Supports adult modeling, clear expectations, relationships, repeated social practice, and concrete problem solving. Original classroom examples teach roles, turns, and checking a procedure. The resource does not validate the entire social-studies sequence or prescribe a child's personal opinions.

<https://www.headstart.gov/teaching-practices/article/social-emotional-learning>

Office of Head Start - Interactive Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five

Early-childhood guidance informs adult support, concrete exploration, and communication options. The original Academy sequence does not adopt a standards framework. This birth-to-five resource does not establish full kindergarten coverage, independent reading readiness, or grade-by-grade validation for later levels.

<https://www.headstart.gov/interactive-head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework-ages-birth-five>