

Sorting Out Services

Obligations and services of local, state, and federal government

Benchmark: SS.7.C.3.14 Differentiate between local, state, and federal governments' obligations and services.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will evaluate scenarios in order to determine which level of government provides specific services.
- Students will classify government services according to level of government in order to evaluate the role that each plays in their lives.
- Students will compare the obligations/powers of governments at each level.
- Students will compare the reserved, concurrent, expressed/ enumerated powers of government.

Time: One class period plus out of class assignment

Materials:

- PowerPoint
- Projector
- Speakers
- Handout A: Sorting Out Services
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Laptop access for small groups of students

Lesson Preparation

- Review handout and PowerPoint
- Print and review the PowerPoint in "notes view". The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

Lesson Overview

Warm Up Watch the Center on Congress Facts of Congress video on federalism (60 seconds). This video also appears in lessons for Benchmarks 3.3, 3.4, and 3.12.

Using the "Sorting Out Services" PowerPoint, review the idea of federalism as a system of government where powers, obligations, and services are shared between the local, state, and federal governments. Review and compare reserved, concurrent, and expressed/enumerated/delegated powers (also addressed in Benchmarks 3.3 and 3.4). The PowerPoint will include examples of federal, state, and local government services. Make the connection between the services of federal government and state/local government to the delegated/expressed/enumerated powers and reserved powers in previous slides. Examples of shared services/powers are also included.

Ask students how the government is involved in their daily lives. Create a list of students' responses. Using the Center on Congress Interactive Module "An Ordinary Day: The Impact of Congress/Government", show students the different ways government is involved in their lives. Various items in the module light up and when clicked will show how government influences that particular item. Have students record the different ways government impacts them on a sheet of paper.

Divide the class into small groups. Distribute Handout A. Using the lists they have compiled from the interactive module, have students work to:

- Add other ways government is involved in their lives
- Classify the services by level of government: local, state, and/or federal. Students may use technology resources to assist in classifying the government services.
- Answer the question at the bottom of the question grid (What role does this level of government play in your life?) for each level of government.

Once completed, debrief the activity by discussing how students classified the government services. Record responses on three pieces of large chart paper labeled “Local”, “State”, and “Federal”.

Using the PowerPoint, link to the Center on Congress’ activity “Where To Go With a Problem”. Directions to this interactive module are provided in the notes of the PowerPoint. Once you click the image you will see an e-learning module titled “The Importance of Civic Participation”. Enter the module, and then select the “Where to Go With a Problem” module. This will provide scenarios that students then have to classify as local, state, and/or federal problems to reinforce the concept of federalism and government services.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask students to explain how they made their decisions.

Sorting Out Services

Directions: Using your list of government services compiled from the Center on Congress' Impact of Congress module, classify the government services by local, state, and federal government in the chart below. Place an asterisk (*) next to any services that are shared by the different levels of government.

Local	State	Federal
What role does this level of government play in your life?		