

Thematic Strands and Concepts

The ten NCSS thematic strands are (available on the web at www.ncss.org/standards/stitle.html):

1. Culture: Ways that human groups learn, create, and adapt, in order to meet their fundamental needs and beliefs they develop to explain the world.
2. Time, Continuity, and Change: Ways that human groups locate themselves historically.
3. People, Places, and Environments: The influence of geography on human cultures and history.
4. Individual Development and Identity: Relationships between the ways that people perceive themselves and their membership in social groups.
5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions: Roles played by social institutions like schools and families in a society and their impact on individuals and groups.
6. Power, Authority, and Governance: Ways that individuals and societies make decisions about rights, rules, relationships, and priorities.
7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption: Ways that individuals and societies make decisions about the things people need to survive and how they will be provided.
8. Science, Technology, and Society: Methods and tools used by people to produce and distribute what they need and want within an economic system.
9. Global Connections: The increasingly important and diverse relationships between societies.
10. Civic Ideals and Practices: The relationship between the expressed beliefs of a society and the implementation of these beliefs in actual practice.

The fifteen New York State concepts are:

1. Change: Over time there are basic alterations in things, events, and ideas.
2. Choice: People and societies continually decide among alternatives.
3. Citizenship: People are members of communities that influence their behavior and provide them with both rights and responsibilities.
4. Culture: Ways that human groups learn, create, and adapt, to meet their fundamental needs, and beliefs that they develop to explain the world.
5. Diversity: People and societies develop different approaches to address similar human concerns.
6. Empathy: Understanding diverse people and societies by identifying similarities between aspects of your own life and the experience, behavior, and responses of others.
7. Environment: Natural and human-made elements in the world around us.
8. Identity: Definition of yourself as an individual who is a member of different social groups.
9. Interdependence: The reliance by people in a society, or by societies, on each other for mutually beneficial interactions.
10. Human Rights: Inalienable rights that exist prior to and independently of political systems and nation-states.
11. Justice: The idea that the citizens of a nation-state are entitled to participation in its political system, equitable laws that are administered without bias, and protection of their basic human rights.
12. Political System: The ways that groups of people make and implement decisions in a nation-state or a subdivision.
13. Power: The ability to influence or determine decisions in a society.
14. Scarcity: The conflict between unlimited human needs and wants and limited natural and human resources within an economic system.
15. Technology: Methods and tools used by people to produce and distribute what they need and want within an economic system.