

Dear Parents,

Our unit of study in Social Studies is understanding what a government is and the need for rules and laws. This informational letter will help you understand what your child is learning so the content may be discussed at home throughout our study. Listed below is the Georgia Standards of Excellence for our unit. Also included is important vocabulary and examples of what we are learning about.

Happy Learning!

Second Grade Social Studies Teachers

Social Studies Standard:

SS2CG1 The student will define the concept of government and the need for rules and laws.

- A **government** is a group of leaders who write laws to help keep everyone safe.
- A **law** is a rule you must follow in the community in order to be safe.
- A **rule** is something you must follow at home or school in order to be safe and learn.
- Examples of laws are stopping at a stop sign, wearing a bicycle helmet, wearing a seat belt, no littering, and driving the speed limit.
- Examples of rules at school are walking in the hall, not chewing gum, following directions, being a good listener, and keeping your hands to yourself.
- When we choose not to follow the rules and laws, we have consequences.
- A **consequence** is the punishment for not following the rule or law so one can learn from the mistake.
- A consequence for not following a rule at school is having to do your work during recess if you chose to play during work time.
- A consequence for not following a rule may be having time out to think about one's actions.
- A consequence for not following a law such as driving too fast is paying a fine.
- A **fine** is having to pay a certain amount of money.
- A consequence for not following a law such as stealing may be going to jail.
- **Enforce** means to make sure the rules and laws are followed.
- Parents and teachers enforce the rules at home and school.
- Police officers enforce the laws to make sure everyone is safe.