



Office of State Governor | Lesson Plan

How does the role of a state governor influence the effectiveness and accountability of state government in a democratic nation?

Students will identify and explain the role of the state governor as the head of the executive branch in their state, detailing the election process, key powers and responsibilities, mechanisms for removal from office, and the significance of the governor's advisory cabinet.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of a state governor, including the power to veto legislation and the process of impeachment.
- Describe the process through which governors are elected and the significance of the popular vote in this context.
- Explain the functions of the executive branch of a state government and how the governor's leadership influences state policies and laws.
- Compare the roles of the governor and the lieutenant governor, especially in scenarios where the lieutenant governor must assume the governor's responsibilities.
- Evaluate the importance of a governor's powers, such as issuing pardons and declaring state emergencies in the context of state governance and public welfare.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Governor:** The chief executive officer of a state, elected by the citizens, who leads the executive branch.
- **Executive Branch:** The branch of state government that executes laws, headed by the governor.
- **Veto:** The power used by a governor to reject a bill passed by the legislature.
- **Impeachment:** The process through which a sitting governor can be formally charged with wrongdoing, leading to possible removal from office.
- **Cabinet:** A group of advisors to the governor, usually composed of the heads of the state government departments.
- **Lieutenant Governor:** The second highest executive officer of a state, who assumes the governor's duties under certain circumstances.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.3, CCRA.R.4, CCRA.W.9, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.L.3, CCRA.L.4

Academic Subject Areas: Political Science, Civics, America

Materials Needed:

- Video: *Street Smarts: Office of State Governor* (Watch [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- Worksheet: *Street Smarts: Office of State Governor* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Start by asking the students, "What do you know about the state governor? What roles or powers do you think they have?"
2. List their responses on the whiteboard, categorizing them under headings like "Powers," "Responsibilities," and "Election." This visual display will help gauge their existing knowledge and stimulate curiosity.
3. Explain that the governor is the head of the state's executive branch and plays a crucial role in state government, similar to the president's role at the federal level but on a state scale.
4. Highlight key responsibilities such as signing legislation, managing state emergencies, and overseeing the executive branch.
5. Introduce the key vocabulary terms related to the governor's office. Write these words and their definitions on the whiteboard. Discuss each term briefly to ensure students understand their meanings and relevance.
6. Inform students that they will be watching an engaging video that explains the role and significance of the state governor in a game-show-style format.
7. Distribute the "Street Smarts: Office of State Governor" worksheet and instruct students to note specific examples of a governor's powers and duties as they are mentioned in the video.
8. Encourage students to think about questions they might have regarding the powers and duties of a governor, especially any powers that might impact their daily lives.

Watch and Learn: (20 minutes)

1. Play the video. Pause after key points to discuss and ensure comprehension.
2. Ask students to focus on identifying and understanding the governor's powers, the election process, and the role of the executive branch, as discussed in the video.

Wrap-Up: (15 minutes)

1. After the video, facilitate a class discussion to review and clarify any complex points from the video. Ask questions like:
 - What is one new thing you learned about the role of a governor?
 - Can anyone explain the importance of the veto power held by a governor?
 - Why is the cabinet significant to the governor's daily duties?
2. Conclude by telling students how this knowledge can empower them as informed citizens and future voters.
3. Assessment:
 - Collect the completed worksheets to assess understanding and participation.

- Consider a short written assignment where students express their views on the importance of the office of state governor.

Optional Extension Activity:

As an extension, conduct a "Mock Governor Campaign and Election" where students form campaign teams, develop a platform based on real gubernatorial responsibilities, and create campaign materials. This culminates in campaign speeches and a class vote. This activity encourages the application of lesson content, enhances understanding of political campaigns, and develops public speaking and teamwork skills.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.