



***Compiled by teachers, for teachers.***

Sponsored by the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA), **Lessons on Local Government (LOLG)** provides K-12 teachers in Colorado with quality social studies and civics lessons; access to worldwide, state, and local resources; innovative community and student engagement activities; and more. **It helps teachers build future citizens that are engaged, informed, and civic-minded.** All resources can be found at [www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org](http://www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org)

There are several components of LOLG, including:

- **Lesson plans:** Numerous quality local government lesson plans that meet Colorado's social studies and civics standards for K-12 teachers to use in their classrooms can be found at [www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org](http://www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org). Teachers can use them as they are or customize them to make them resonate better with their students.
- **The "Local Governments in Action" poster contest:** This contest encourages 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Colorado to think about how important local government services are. It explains that local governments provide citizens with essential services, such as police and fire protection, streets and roads, libraries, recreation, clean water, schools, and so much more and asks them to show these services in action through their artwork. The winning entries are featured in a yearly calendar and distributed to teachers and local government officials across the state.
- **Connecting Leaders and Students:** LOLG provides local government leaders with resources to connect with youth in their communities via the "Local Leader in the Classroom Kit", found at [www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org/classroom-kits](http://www.lessonsonlocalgovernment.org/classroom-kits)
- **Teacher and teacher-candidate trainings:** Throughout the year, LOLG's curriculum writer and trainer travels across the state to conduct trainings for teachers (and teacher candidates at various colleges and universities) on how to maximize their use of the LOLG curriculum materials. He also provides tips for engaging their students (or future students) on the importance of being active and engaged citizens.
- **Teacher Award:** This year the first "LOLG Creating Effective Citizens Teacher Award" was given to an educator who exemplified the goal of LOLG by connecting students and local government. It was awarded to Lynn Hannapel, a 5th grade teacher at Indian Peaks Elementary School in Longmont. In addition to educating her students about the value of government, the importance of civic awareness, and the knowledge that they can make a difference in their community, Lynn also assists in writing some of LOLG's lesson plans. She shared, "Because of CML and SDA's goals to promote local government through LOLG, a huge network of teachers now have a great efficacy to teach civic ideals and government to their students. Today, teachers have a specific curriculum and numerous opportunities to teach with innovation and lasting implications."
- **Teacher Newsletter:** LOLG has a database of over 950 email addresses from teachers statewide who have subscribed to the LOLG quarterly newsletter. These newsletters contain new lesson announcements, opportunities to connect with local officials, tips for tying current events into classroom lessons, testimonials from fellow educators on how valuable the LOLG tools are, and more.

As one teacher shared...

***"With great resources like this I get to do what I do best, teach kids, instead of spending a lot of time writing curriculum."***

*For more information, contact CML's Lisa White, Membership Services Manager, at (303) 831-6411 or [lwhite@cml.org](mailto:lwhite@cml.org) or SDA's Anthony Sandoval, Membership Services Manager, at (303) 863-1733 or [anthoney@sdaco.org](mailto:anthoney@sdaco.org).*