

PUBLIC POLICY

Course Offerings/Credits

Minimum of 3 Courses

Economics	1
Honors We the People	1
AP U.S. Government	1
Criminal Justice	1
Sociology	1
Focus on Contemporary Issues	1

Career Choices

- Law
- Journalism
- Government and Civil Service
- Business
- Human Resources
- Social Work

Learning Opportunities

- We the People
- Herodotus Society
- Internship at the State House
- School Improvement Team
- Close-Up
- Student Government
- State House Visit
- Mock Trial
- Senior Project
- Project Citizen
- Law Day
- ACI Trip



Pathway Description

Students choosing to follow this pathway will be exposed to a variety of courses related to public policy and its practical applications.

Public policy is a specific course of action that government takes to address a problem. The creation of public policy involves the creation and implementation of policies that result from a rigorous process of investigation, formulation, adoption and implementation. Gaining a strong foundation in the institutions of government, their inner workings, as well as their tools for shaping public policy will be emphasized. For example, students will gain a strong understanding of the administrative state, the lawmaking process of Congress, and the use of judicial interpretation. A study of the implementation of public policy at both the local, state and federal levels will also be addressed. In addition to studying the various steps that occur in the creation of public policy, students will also develop their own perspectives on some important historical and current policy issues. It is expected that students also gain first hand understanding and experience in the workings of government.

Pathway Recommendations

Students interested in pursuing a pathway in this area should meet with their guidance counselor to select the best sequence of courses that will satisfy the North Smithfield High School graduation requirements and at the same time, meet the criteria to receive a seal of concentration in Public Policy.

Students will also develop a Public Policy related focus which will culminate in field experience for the required senior project. Students will be required to participate in the public policy process prior to receiving a seal on their diploma.

It is recommended that students choosing this concentration, actively seek postsecondary schools to further their education in this field.