

## **Title: Local Government Role Played Parade**

**Level: Elementary**

**Overview: This lesson has 3 parts.**

1. Students are introduced to the four types of local government by watching a parade slide show.
2. Students research the services, roles, and duties of the four types of local government creating a local government guide.
3. Students celebrate local government by role playing government officials or employees in a parade around school.

**Length: 4-5 days**

**Colorado Standard 4: Civics:** The origins, structure, and functions of local government

**Evidence Outcomes – Will vary by grade level used**

- identify the origins, structure, and functions of local government.
- identify and explain the services local governments provide and how those services are funded.
- identify and explain a variety of roles leaders, citizens, and others play in local government.

**Inquiry Questions:**

1. Why do people create governments?
2. How do individuals get involved in their local government?

**Materials:** “Local Government on Parade Slide Show” available in the Multiple Grade Level Lesson section of the web site, cut outs of local government cards, local government guide sheets, online resources, parade permission slips

**Part One- Parade Slide Show Procedures and Activities:**

1. Place students in small groups and give each group a set of the 4 types of local government cards.
2. Tell students that they will watch a slide show showing parts of a typical parade. This parade will explore how local governments provide services to the community.
3. The parade will have entries from each of the four types of local government: COUNTY GOVERNMENT, CITY GOVERNMENT, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS. Student will be asked to guess which type of government is represented by each entry.
4. Begin the slide show highlighting the differences between various types of government. Ask student what they expect to see in a parade. Tell students they will now get to identify types of government in the parade.
5. Student groups can huddle and then identify the local government type in the slide, and groups will give the teacher their responses by holding up the correct card.

Provide some details about how they serve the community, and who might work for that government.

6. Extension--Create a bulletin board for local government. Collect visual images of your town or city, county, school district and special districts, government offices, city and county maps, and local government newsletters, etc.

## **Part Two --Local Government Guide Procedures and Activities:**

1. Handout the local government guide. Use online resources listed below or print up some pages from the sites for use in the classroom.
2. Go to each of the web sites and model student research. At the site, model for students where the required information can be found and what it looks like and says about the city, the school district, the special districts, and the county government for your area.
3. Allow students to collect and share the information in the same groups created for the slide show parade.

**Local Government Sites:** Use these links to find local leaders and officials, policies, programs, issues and budget information

**Local Government Sites.** Quick access to all the local governments in your area. Use these links to find local leaders and officials, policies, programs, issues and budget information.

[State of Colorado Local Government Home Page.](#) You can link from here to all kinds of information about local government.

[List of local governments in Colorado by type \(3,395 as of 12/2011\)](#) Many of the local governments can be identified from this list. The extensive nature of the list makes this page interesting as an introduction to all the services provided by local government.

[Alphabetical list of links to all city governments \(271\) municipalities](#) Most of the municipalities have home pages where you can find budget, policies and programs provided by your city or town.

[Alphabetical list of links to all Colorado County Governments \(62\)](#) All the counties in Colorado have their home pages available here. You can find County Commissioners, programs and services for your county.

[Alphabetical list of links to all school districts in Colorado \(178\)](#) Each school district has a link with basic details, testing and contact information.

[List of all local governments in Colorado.](#) Here you can find all the local governments in your area, including cities, counties and dozens of special districts. Many of the governments have

links to their home page where you can see issues, budgets, programs and names of the elected boards of directors.

[Sample of special districts in Colorado with links](#) A small sample of the more than 3000 special districts in Colorado with links to their home pages.

**Part Three--Local Government Celebration. A Role-Played School Parade Procedures and Activities:**

1. Students will create a parade whose theme is CELEBRATE YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT. All four types of local government will be represented in the parade.
2. Scenario: Local Government is celebrating a year of hard and good works with their community, and so the community wants to celebrate the pride they have for their local government. All the community members that work within local government like mayors, sheriffs, recreation center employees, lawn crews, etc. will all be a part of the parade.
3. Each student will represent a part of local government. Use the information from the guide activity to make a list of choices. Students will dress up as one of the community members who perform services for local government. For example, students can be a mayor, a police officer, a librarian, a coach, a firefighter, an election worker, etc. They may wear costumes or may create labels to show who they are and what they do. For example, if a student was role playing the County Sheriff, he or she would wear a star for a badge and a sheriff's hat. Another student may choose to be a School Board member and wear a name badge indicating their role as well as formal attire.
4. Ask students to discuss their choices with their family and seek help with ideas for who to be and what to wear.
5. Have students complete the form below.
6. When the parade day arrives, ask other teachers to line the halls with their classes and have students keep a list of the government servants walking by.

I will represent this part of Local Government --Circle One:

City/Municipality    County Government    Special Districts    School District

I will represent this person's job: \_\_\_\_\_

Here are 4 things I know about this person and their job:

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I agree to return this application with my parent's permission/invitation note attached by \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name

Dear Families,

We have been studying local government as part of our work in Civics. We have learned about how local government helps our community. We would like to celebrate our learning with a Local Government Parade. Your child has chosen to represent \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. The children are asked to wear a costume that would be representative of that part of local government. For example, if your child has chosen to be the Fire Chief, your child would want to wear something that represents the fire department. Some students' roles will require them to dress as "adults" and wear signs indicating his/her job, for example, "County Commissioner."

The class would like to invite families to attend the Local Government Parade. Our Parade will be held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please sign the attachment below that you have read this letter, understand how you can support your child's efforts in this project, and that you would also like to attend the parade.

Thank you!

Please return the following note with your child to the teacher by \_\_\_\_\_.

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----- cut here -----

Please return the following invitation along with your child's application for the parade by \_\_\_\_\_.

We, \_\_\_\_\_'s family have read and understood the requirements for the Local Government Parade. We agree to help our child with his efforts to be a part of celebration.

Circle One:

Yes, we will be able to attend. Number of people attending\_\_\_\_\_.

No, we will not be able attend.

**Print and cut out for Local Government on Parade lessons**

**County  
Government**

**City  
Government**

**School District**

**Special District**

# Four Types of Local Government Guide

Use online resources to create your own local government guide.

<b>County Government</b>	<b>City Government</b>
<b>County Name:</b>	<b>City Name</b> (or name of the closest city):
<b>3 Details that describe your county:</b>	<b>3 Details that describe your city:</b>
<b>Name one County Commissioner:</b>	<b>Name one city leader:</b>
<b>Describe 3 services provided by people who work for the county:</b>	<b>Describe 3 services provided by people who work for the city:</b>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3

## Four Types of Local Government Guide

Use online resources to create your own local government guide.

<b>School District</b>	<b>Special District</b>
<p data-bbox="191 478 609 520"><b>School District Name:</b></p> <p data-bbox="191 630 787 672"><b>Name a School Board Member:</b></p> <p data-bbox="191 781 803 919"><b>Describe 3 jobs performed by people who work for the school district:</b></p> <p data-bbox="191 982 219 1024"><b>1</b></p> <p data-bbox="191 1129 219 1171"><b>2</b></p> <p data-bbox="191 1276 219 1318"><b>3</b></p>	<p data-bbox="852 478 1469 625"><b>Describe 3 services provided by 3 Special Districts in your county:</b></p> <p data-bbox="852 688 885 730"><b>1.</b></p> <p data-bbox="852 930 885 972"><b>2.</b></p> <p data-bbox="852 1224 885 1266"><b>3.</b></p>