



Engaged Citizens:
 SS.7.CG.2.10
Public Policy Problem Solving
READING #3

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.10 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will analyze public policy alternatives to resolve local and state problems.

This material is adapted from resources developed by the Center for Civic Education.

Lawmakers often look at several possible solutions (alternatives) before choosing the one that will solve a local or state problem. Some lawmakers might even contact other local or state governments with similar public policies to decide which solution is best.

Here is an example of how this might look:

Tobacco use is on the rise in local middle schools. The school board wants to create a policy that will get rid of tobacco use in schools. The **superintendent, school board**, principals, teachers, parents, and students are all concerned citizens interested in solving this problem. The superintendent, acting as the “government” for the schools in the county, decides to hold a meeting and invite interested citizens to suggest solutions. Several solutions are presented:

1. Create a “zero-tolerance” policy in the student code of conduct
2. Educate the students about the effects of using tobacco
3. Hire security guards to patrol the campus and bathrooms where smokers are found
4. Test the students for drug, alcohol, and tobacco usage

All the solutions that are presented might work. The superintendent will have to decide which solution is best to solve the problem.

lawmakers - members of a legislature that passes laws (for example, U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, state representative, state senator, city council member)

school board - the group of people elected to manage local public schools

superintendent - the leader of a school district

Source:

How Can Jackson Middle Meet Its Responsibilities to Deal with the Problem of Substance Abuse?. New.Civiced.org.

The Center for Civic Education, 2014. Web. 11 March 2014.

<<http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/lesson-plans/1785>>