



*The Executive and Legislative
Branches: SS.7.CG.3.13*
**National Government
Obligations and Services**
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.13 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will compare the obligations/powers of governments at each level.

According to Article I of the U.S. Constitution, the **national government** has certain **obligations** and must provide certain services equally to all citizens, regardless of their state. Article I explains how the national government is obligated to collect taxes, provide for the nation’s common defense, and do other things to help U.S. citizens. The national government is also obligated to provide equal access to government services, including health care, student loans, and helping the poor.

The states have certain obligations and must provide certain services equally to all citizens of the state. Each state constitution describes these services and obligations. The Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says that any powers not specifically delegated (given) to the national government are reserved (set aside) for the states. This means that if powers are not given to the national government by the U.S. Constitution, the **state governments** have control over those powers. The states have interpreted the Tenth Amendment to mean that they are in charge of providing services such as public education, public safety, law enforcement, and certain health services. The state governments also have the power to set up **local governments**, which play an important role in the lives of the citizens.

Local governments also have certain obligations and must provide certain services equally to the citizens who live in their area. Local governments are the closest to the people and provide the most services regularly. Local services include schools, water, sewage, road repairs, emergency/medical services, public cemeteries, airports, harbors, and parks. One of the most important local government services is law enforcement, which includes city police officers and county sheriff’s deputies.

Below is a brief review of the three types of power given to the **national** and **state governments**.

Type of Power	Description
Expressed/Enumerated Powers	Expressed/enumerated powers are those listed in the U.S. Constitution given solely to the national government. These powers are listed in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. Examples of these powers include: the power to declare war, to raise an army and navy, to regulate (control) immigration and to regulate trade.

<p>Reserved Powers</p>	<p>Reserved powers are defined in the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Tenth Amendment says that “the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”</p> <p>This amendment gives all powers not specifically listed for the national government to the states and to the people.</p> <p>Examples of reserved powers include: the power to set up an educational system, to manage elections, and to provide driver’s licenses.</p>
<p>Concurrent Powers</p>	<p>Concurrent powers are those shared by the national and state governments. Some powers are concurrent because the United States has a national system (a system of government where power is shared between the national government and the states).</p> <p>Examples of concurrent powers include: the power to collect taxes (national taxes and state taxes), to borrow money, to make laws, and to create and repair roads and highways.</p>

national government - the national level of government; the government of the United States

obligation - a requirement, something a person or government has to do

state government - the government of an individual state

local government - the government of a municipality (city) or county

expressed/enumerated powers - the powers specifically given to the national government, also known as delegated powers; they may not be used by state governments

reserved powers - powers that are not granted to the national government that belong to (are reserved to) the states and the people; see Tenth Amendment

concurrent powers - powers shared by the national, state, and/or local governments