

## State of the County: Resources for educators

The State of the County Address presents an opportunity for students to learn about how counties function and the role county governments play in our lives. On April 5, Chair Irene Fernando of the Hennepin County Board will give an address highlighting Hennepin County's achievements, priorities and vision from 10 to 11:30 a.m. You can [watch the program remotely](#) via Teams starting at 10:05 a.m.

Hennepin County invites you to explore these no-cost educational resources from iCivics and the National Association of Counties. The lesson plans and activities offer new and engaging ways for students to learn about county government.

### Curriculum and lesson plans

#### For elementary students

##### [My County Works activity book](#)

This activity book is designed for elementary students and combines information about local government with art, math and writing practice activities. Different areas of county government feature different activities (for example, math problems in the section on budget). Each section has questions for students to reflect on how they are impacted by county government. The activity book has 20 pages of instructional content.

##### [County services classroom chart](#)

Keep track of county services your classroom learns about or sees in action with this printable infographic.

#### For middle and high school students

##### [County Solutions lesson series](#)

The County Solutions lesson series teaches middle and high school students about the role of local government through reflecting on their own communities. Students identify a problem in their

community and explore possible solutions, including method of outreach and advocacy. There are two sets of lessons: one for middle schools and one for high schools.

### [Counties Work game and curriculum](#)

Students can try their hand at running their very own county with the Counties Work game. They play the role of a county official balancing resident needs, proposals, budgets and more. A Spanish translation and vocabulary word glossary are available within the game.

The game also has an [extension pack](#) with suggested classroom activities and teaching tools to reinforce the concepts explored in the game.

### **For educators and high school students**

#### [Counties 101](#)

Refresh your own knowledge about the role of counties, get information specific to your state and see innovative work from local governments across the nation.

#### [State of the County Address reflections worksheet](#)

Here's a simple one-pager that walks through interesting numbers about Hennepin County and asks reflection questions derived from [an overview of Hennepin County](#), as well as the [Chair Fernando's State of the County program remarks](#).

## Contact and support

If you have questions about these materials, please contact Christa Mims at [christa.mims@hennepin.us](mailto:christa.mims@hennepin.us).