

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: CITIZENSHIP MANDATE

The statutory citizenship mandate was introduced in 2006 and clarified in 2021. This mandate sets requirements for the content of citizenship education, the manner in which it is provided, and the school culture. These requirements are established in [Article 10 of the Primary Education Act BES](#) and [Article 2.2 of the Secondary Education Act 2020](#).

Form

Citizenship education must be purposeful, coherent, and recognisable.

Educational Content

The education focuses on:

- fostering respect for and knowledge of the fundamental values of the democratic rule of law (freedom, equality, and solidarity).
- developing social and societal competences that enable students to take part in and contribute to society.
- fostering knowledge of and respect for differences between people (e.g. belief systems, gender, and/or political affiliation), as well as the principle that equal cases should be treated equally.

School culture

The competent authority ensures a school culture that aligns with these fundamental values and in which students are encouraged to actively practise how to interact and act according to these values.



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Quality Card October 2025

FOR WHOM?

Primary and secondary schools on Bonaire, Statia en Saba.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Schools have a statutory duty to promote active citizenship and social cohesion through both their teaching and their school culture. This follows from the statutory citizenship mandate and from the core objectives. Schools decide themselves how they give substance to this.

WHO SUPERVISES?

The Inspectorate of Education reviews whether citizenship education is designed in a purposeful, coherent, and recognisable manner, and whether it meets the requirements set out in the legal framework.

1. [Inspection Framework Primary Education: Chapter 5, Chapter 9.7, Annex 7](#)
2. [Inspection Framework Secondary Education: Chapter 5, Chapter 9.8, Annex 8](#)

Applicable quality standards include: OP0, OP2, OP3, VS2, VS3, OR2.

If the Inspectorate of Education assesses citizenship as insufficient, the school receives an improvement mandate.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: CORE OBJECTIVES

Core objectives describe what all students must learn in each learning area. Schools are free to add additional goals.

Currently, there are no separate statutory core objectives for the learning area of citizenship. Core objectives that relate to citizenship can be found in other learning areas, such as [‘Orientation on yourself and the world’](#).

Since 2022, SLO has been updating all core objectives. As part of this process, new core objectives for citizenship education are also being developed. These core objectives elaborate on the educational content required by the statutory citizenship mandate. [The final draft of the core objectives](#) has been available since September 1st 2025 and are expected to enter into force in 2027.

Until that time, the Inspectorate does not monitor the use of these new core objectives.

For more information about the new core objectives or the curriculum revision, consult the [indicated webpage](#). For an accessible overview of the current statutory requirements and upcoming changes, see the [referenced infographic](#). This infographic is written in Dutch.



SUPPORT

The Expertise Centre for Citizenship education provides support to schools in shaping their citizenship education. The Expertise Centre for Citizenship Education is funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW). The Expertise Centre for Citizenship Education supports you by:

- Making the full range of resources related to citizenship education available.
- Providing access to scientific and practical knowledge in the field of citizenship education.
- Offering a platform for sharing and enriching knowledge and experiences.
- Providing short-term support to help you take the next step in developing your citizenship education.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there “right” or “wrong” ways to implement citizenship education?

Schools determine their own approach to citizenship education.

This can take many forms; the law provides ample flexibility.

However, the law does set minimum requirements, including the extent to which the school promotes the fundamental values of the democratic rule of law.

Should citizenship be taught as a separate subject or be integrated into other subjects?

The law does not prescribe how citizenship education should be organised.

It is therefore not compulsory to teach citizenship as a separate subject, nor is it compulsory to integrate it into other subjects.

When will the new core objectives for citizenship be established?

SLO has been updating all core objectives since 2022.

As part of this update, new core objectives for citizenship education are being developed. the final draft of the core objectives has been available since September 1st 2025 and are expected to take effect in 2027.

What is meant by purposeful, coherent, and recognisable?

Schools translate the statutory mandate and core objectives, based on their own vision on citizenship, into concrete learning goals that fit their students and local context.

(purposeful). The learning goals and related content are logically structured (coherent).

The planned education is actually implemented in practice (recognisable).



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