

## Schools and Community (Module 1)

In this module, students build their literacy and citizenship skills as they engage in a study of schools. Students begin the module by participating in a series of focused read-alouds to explore the module guiding question, "What is school, and why are schools important?" In Unit 2, students build on this understanding by engaging in close read-alouds of the text *Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools around the World* by Susan Hughes. Through this text, students learn about schools around the world and the challenges some communities face in sending their students to school and how they solve these challenges. To support their understanding of this text, students take notes on and write in response to their reading.

In Unit 3, students revisit sections from *Off to Class* as they engage in whole class research to learn about the similarities and differences between their own school and three schools from the text. Students extend their research in small groups by focusing on one school in particular and producing an informational book about it titled "The Most Important Thing about Schools." Throughout the unit, students participate in collaborative conversations with their peers to process and extend their understandings of the similarities and differences between their own school and the school they have researched. This performance task centers on **CCSS ELA W.2.2, W.2.5, and L.2.2**.

- **Topic: Schools and Community**
- **Task: Informative Writing: "The Most Important Thing about Schools" Book**
- **Targets (CCSS explicitly taught and assessed): W.2.2, W.2.5, L.2.2**
- **Text: *The Dot*; *The Invisible Boy*; *Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools around the World*; *The Important Book***

### [Video Overview](#)

#### Guiding Questions and Big Ideas

- ***What is school, and why are schools important?***  
*A school is a place designed for students to build knowledge and skills, foster character and relationships, and create high-quality work.*
- ***Why is it hard for some children to go to school in their communities?***  
*Things like weather and location can make it difficult for children to go to school.*
- ***How do communities solve these problems so their children can go to school?***

*Communities think of solutions to make sure students have a place to go to school.*

- ***How are schools around the world different? How are they similar?***

*Schools around the world may be different or they may be similar, but they are all places designed for learning.*

### **Module 1 Performance Task - Informative Writing: "The Most Important Thing about Schools" Book**

In this performance task, students create an informational book titled "The Most Important Thing about Schools." Using information from whole class and small group research, they write and compile a book that compares and contrasts their own school with a school from *Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools around the World* by Susan Hughes. Using *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown as inspiration, students' books conclude with a reflection statement on what they think is the most important thing about schools. This is a scaffolded writing task in which students learn about the steps in the writing process and complete this book over several lessons. Students' books are presented orally to kindergarteners at a Celebration of Learning at the end of the module. This task addresses CCSS ELA W.2.2, W.2.5, and L.2.2.

### **Social Studies Connections**

This module is designed to address English Language Arts standards and to be taught during the integrated literacy block of the school day. This module also intentionally incorporates social studies content that many teachers across the nation are expected to address in second grade. These intentional connections are described below. (Based on your state or district context, teachers may also choose to address additional specific social studies standards during other parts of the school day.)

#### **C3 Framework for Social Studies:**

- D2.Geo.4.K-2. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people's lives in a place or region.
- D2.Civ.6.K-2. Describe how communities work to accomplish common tasks, establish responsibilities, and fulfill roles of authority.
- D2.Civ.9.K-2. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions while responding attentively to others when addressing ideas and making decisions as a group.