



Sample Policy for School Districts in California In Support of High School Voter Registration

School districts are key partners in high school voter registration efforts. Our sample policy asks school districts to teach their students about voter registration and to ensure that all eligible young people have an opportunity to register or preregister to vote before they graduate from high school.

TITLE: High School Voter Registration Policy

POLICY NUMBER: YEAR- ##

ISSUER: [e.g., School Board, Superintendent]

DATE: []

WHEREAS, California allows young people to preregister to vote beginning at age 16;

WHEREAS, California students who preregister will be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18;

WHEREAS, in 2023, preregistration rates in California remain below 15%;

WHEREAS, many young people are never asked to register to vote;

WHEREAS, young people should have an equal voice in our democracy, and our institutions function best when we have high levels of participation;

WHEREAS, youth are 40 percent more likely to vote if they are taught about elections and voting in high school;

WHEREAS, under California Election Code section 2146(e), every eligible high school student should receive a meaningful opportunity to apply to register to vote;

WHEREAS, section 49040 of the California Education Code designates the last two weeks of April and the last two weeks of September as High School Voter Education Weeks during which time persons authorized by the county elections office shall be allowed to register students and school personnel on any high school campus;



WHEREAS section 49041 of the California Education Code authorizes schools to designate students as voter outreach coordinators;

WHEREAS, the [California Secretary of State](#), the [California Superintendent of Public Instruction](#), and the [Los Angeles County Registrar](#) all encourage high school voter registration and provide resources to help high schools promote voter registration;

WHEREAS, because of COVID-19, voter registrations efforts aimed at young people have been especially challenging due to closures of schools and government offices and the cancellation of public events;

WHEREAS, [The Civics Center](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan youth and democracy organization, has called on high schools across the country to adopt goals of helping all eligible students to register or preregister to vote before they graduate and ensuring that their students learn about voter registration and voting as part of a robust civics education curriculum; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for high school voter registration may vary from school to school and include High School Voter Registration Week, an annual nonpartisan nationwide week of action in late September in support of high school voter registration, which also coincides with National Voter Registration Day, as well as school-wide efforts during the spring semester, and no later than the last two weeks of April to coincide with California's High School Voter Education Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. [Your school district] supports and recognizes California High School Voter Education Weeks (in September and April), High School Voter Registration Week and National Voter Registration Day;
2. All high schools within [your school district] will appoint a faculty member or administrator who is responsible for voter registration efforts, including those set forth in this policy statement. The appointment will be made in keeping with all agreements and policies for making such appointments. The principal of each high school is responsible for ensuring that this appointment has occurred and that the responsibilities are carried out. In the absence of an appointment, the principal is responsible for the school's voter registration efforts. The principal will notify this district and the California Secretary of State of this appointment in accordance with California Education Code section 2148.
3. Either the principal or the principal's designee shall receive appropriate training in voter registration from resources provided by the California Secretary of State,



county Registrar of Voters, or nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to youth voter registration.

4. [Your school district] and all high schools within [your school district] will designate at least [five or other number appropriate to your district] students every year as voter outreach coordinators;

5. [Your school district] and all high schools within [your school district] will promote voter registration in general, and preregistration and High School Voter Registration Week in particular, through all of its communications channels, including email lists, texting lists, social media, and announcements at public meetings.

6. All high schools within [your school district] will support nonpartisan voter registration drives at least twice every year, once during [High School Voter Registration Week](#), and once in the spring or during graduation week.

7. All high schools within [your school district] will help students register or preregister to vote by providing them information about eligibility, age, and other requirements. Schools may allocate instructional time or assembly time for this purpose.

8. All high schools within [your school district] are authorized to partner with local election officials and with nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations dedicated to voter registration in support of high school voter registration efforts.

9. High school voter registration efforts should occur in a manner that is nonpartisan, respectful of differences, voluntary for the students, consistent with maintaining student privacy, complying with all applicable election laws, and offering meaningful opportunities to participate for students who are not eligible to register or to vote.