

Policy 6142.3: Civic Education

Original Adopted Date: 2/14/2024

The Governing Board recognizes that involvement in civic and political institutions is essential to a democratic government and desires to provide a comprehensive civic education program to help students acquire the knowledge, skills, and principles essential for informed, engaged, and responsible citizenship.

The Board shall approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, academic standards and curriculum in civics and government that are aligned with state academic standards and curriculum frameworks.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine specific courses within the K-12 curriculum in which civic education and government may be explicitly and systematically taught. He/she shall also encourage the integration of civic education into other subjects as appropriate.

The district's civic education program shall provide students with an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in American democracy and the workings of federal, state, and local governments. As appropriate, instruction should include an examination of fundamental American documents, including, but not limited to, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and other significant writings and speeches. Instruction should also promote a student's understanding of shared democratic principles and values, such as personal responsibility, justice, equality, respect for others, civic-mindedness, and patriotism, and enable students to make their own commitment to these civic values.

Service learning, extracurricular and cocurricular activities, class and school elections, simulations of government, student-led debates, voter education, and observation of local government processes may be used to reinforce classroom instruction by linking civic knowledge to practical experience and encouraging civic involvement.

Whenever civic education includes topics that may be controversial due to political beliefs or other influences, instruction shall be presented in a balanced manner that does not promote any particular viewpoint. Students shall not be discriminated against for expressing their ideas and opinions and shall be encouraged to respect different points of view.

Constitution/Citizenship Day

Each year on or near September 17, in commemoration of Constitution and Citizenship Day, the district shall hold an educational program for students in grades K-12 pertaining to the United States Constitution which shall include exercises and instruction in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. (Education Code 37221; 36 USC 106 Note)

Student Voter Registration

To encourage students to participate in the elections process when they are of voting age, the Superintendent or designee shall provide high school students with voter registration information, including information regarding the state's online voter registration system.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify an employee at each high school whom the California Secretary of State may contact to facilitate the distribution of voter registration forms to eligible students. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the business address, phone number, and email address of each contact person to the Secretary of State. (Elections Code 2148)

The designated employee shall determine the most effective means of distributing voter registration forms provided by the Secretary of State, which may include, but are not limited to, distributing the forms at the start of the school year with orientation materials, placing voter registration forms at central locations, including voter registration forms with graduation materials, and/or providing links and the web site address of the Secretary of State's online voter registration system on the district's web site and in email notices sent to students.

The principal or designee may appoint one or more students enrolled at each high school to serve as voter outreach coordinators at that school. The voter outreach coordinator(s) may coordinate voter registration activities at the school to encourage eligible persons to register to vote. With the approval of the principal or designee, the voter outreach coordinator(s) may also coordinate election-related activities on campus, including voter registration drives, mock elections, debates, and other election-related student outreach activities. (Education Code 49041)

During the last two full weeks in April and September, in areas on each high school campus that are reasonably accessible to all students as designated by the principal or designee, the county elections official shall be allowed to register students and school personnel to vote. (Education Code 49040)

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 233.5	Teaching of principles
Ed. Code 33540	Standards for government and civics instruction
Ed. Code 37221	Commemorative exercises including anniversary of U.S. Constitution
Ed. Code 48205	Absence from school for jury duty or precinct board service
Ed. Code 49040-49041	Student voter registration
Ed. Code 51210	Course of study for grades 1-6
Ed. Code 51220	Course of study for grades 7-12
Ed. Code 51470-51474	State Seal of Civic Engagement
Ed. Code 54	Student service on boards and commissions
Elec. Code 12302	Precinct boards; appointment of students
Elec. Code 2146	Student voter registration
Elec. Code 2148	Student voter registration; contact person
Federal	Description
20 USC 6711-6716	Education for Democracy Act

36 USC 101-144

Patriotic observances

Management Resources

Description

American Bar Association Publication

Essentials of Law-Related Education, rev. 2003

California Department of Education
Publication

History-Social Science Content Standards

California Department of Education
Publication

History-Social Science Framework for California Public
Schools

Center For Civic Education Publication

National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994

Center For Civic Education Publication

Education for Democracy: California Civic Education Scope &
Sequence, 2003

National Assessment of Educational
Progress (NAEP)

Civics Assessment

Website

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Website

[National Assessment of Educational Progress, Civics
Assessment:](#)

Website

[National Council for the Social Studies](#)

Website

[American Bar Association](#)

Website

[American Political Science Association](#)

Website

[Bill of Rights Institute](#)

Website

[California Association of Student Leaders](#)

Website

[California Council for the Social Studies](#)

Website

[California Secretary of State Online Voter Registration](#)

Website

[Center for California Studies](#)

Website

[Center for Civic Education](#)

Website

[Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and
Engagement](#)

Website

[Constitutional Rights Foundation](#)

Website

[CSBA](#)

Cross References

Code

Description

0410

[Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities](#)

0450

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)

0450

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)

1400

[Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The
Schools](#)

1700

[Relations Between Private Industry And The Schools](#)

4131	<u>Staff Development</u>
5145.13	<u>Response To Immigration Enforcement</u>
5145.13	<u>Response To Immigration Enforcement</u>
5145.2	<u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>
5145.2	<u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>
5145.9	<u>Hate-Motivated Behavior</u>
6000	<u>Concepts And Roles</u>
6011	<u>Academic Standards</u>
6115	<u>Ceremonies And Observances</u>
6115	<u>Ceremonies And Observances</u>
6141	<u>Curriculum Development And Evaluation</u>
6141	<u>Curriculum Development And Evaluation</u>
6142.4	<u>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</u>
6142.5	<u>Environmental Education</u>
6142.94	<u>History-Social Science Instruction</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6144	<u>Controversial Issues</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145.5	<u>Student Organizations And Equal Access</u>
6145.5	<u>Student Organizations And Equal Access</u>
6146.1	<u>High School Graduation Requirements</u>
9000	<u>Role Of The Board</u>
9150	<u>Student Board Members</u>