

CIVIC EDUCATION

he Board of Trustees 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/Principal or designee, academic standards and curriculum in civics and government that are aligned with state academic standards and curriculum frameworks.

(cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)
(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

The Superintendent/Principal 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.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

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.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)

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.

CIVIC EDUCATION (continued)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)
(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

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)

(cf. 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances)

Student Voter Registration

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

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

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CIVIC EDUCATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 54 Student service on boards and commissions
- 233.5 Teaching of principles
- 33540 Standards for government and civics instruction
- 37221 Commemorative exercises including anniversary of U.S. Constitution
- 48205 Absence from school for jury duty or precinct board service
- 49040-49041 Student voter registration
- 51210 Courses of study, grades 1-6
- 51220 Courses of study, grades 7-12
- 51470-51474 State Seal of Civic Engagement

ELECTIONS CODE

- 2146 Student voter registration
- 2148 Student voter registration, contact person
- 12302 Precinct boards, appointment of students

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 6711-6716 Education for Democracy Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 36

- 101-144 Patriotic observances

Management Resources:

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

- Essentials of Law-Related Education*, rev. 2003

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

- History-Social Science Content Standards*

- History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools*

CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

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

- National Standards for Civics and Government*, 1994

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) PUBLICATIONS

- Civics Assessment*

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

- American Bar Association: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education.html

- American Political Science Association: <http://www.apsanet.org>

- Bill of Rights Institute: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org>

- California Association of Student Leaders: <http://www.casl1.org>

- California Council for the Social Studies: <http://www.ccss.org>

- California Secretary of State Online Voter Registration: <http://registertovote.ca.gov>

- Center for California Studies: <http://www.csus.edu/calst>

- Center for Civic Education: <http://www.civiced.org>

- Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement: <http://www.civicyouth.org>

- Constitutional Rights Foundation: <http://www.crf-usa.org>

- National Assessment of Educational Progress, Civics Assessment:

- <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/civics>

- National Council for the Social Studies: <http://www.ncss.org>

Policy

adopted: December 11, 2019

CUDEBACK UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Carlotta, California