

San Dieguito Union High School District

Civic Education

BP 6142.3

Instruction

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.

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.

After being provided with voter registration information, students shall be given the opportunity to discuss with their families before completing their registration form. Students shall be afforded privacy and confidentiality during this process. Students shall not be discriminated against for expressing their ideas and opinions and shall be encouraged to respect different points of view.

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.

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>

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