

Civic Education

The Governing Board recognizes that citizen 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, 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.

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

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 also shall 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.

To develop a sense of political effectiveness, instruction should develop students' understanding of the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. Service learning, extracurricular and cocurricular activities, class and school elections, 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)

Instruction also should 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.

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; P.L. 108-447, Sec. 111)

(*cf.* 6115 - *Ceremonies and Observances*)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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*

51210 *Courses of study, grades 1-6*

51220 *Courses of study, grades 7-12*

ELECTIONS CODE

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:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

School Board Leadership: The Role and Function of California's School Boards, 1996

FEDERAL REGISTER

77 *Fed. Reg.* 29727 *Constitution Day and Citizenship Day*

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Essentials of Law-Related Education, rev. 2003

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

History-Social Science Content Standards

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

1998 Civics Report Card for the Nation, November 18, 1999

WEB SITES

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

American Bar Association, *Law-Related Education Projects*: <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lre>

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>

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>

Center for Youth Citizenship: <http://www.youthcitizenship.org>

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

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Civics Assessment:

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

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

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