

### **Policy 6142.3: Civic Education**

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 Governing 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 TK-8 curriculum in which civic education and government may be explicitly and systematically taught. They 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 an objective and factual manner. 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 TK-8 pertaining to the United States Constitution which shall include exercises and instruction in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the constitution.<sup>36</sup> USC 106 Note)