



Chico Unified School District

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999
(530) 891-3000

Board Policy: #6142.3

Section: 6000

Instruction

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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, 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.

(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 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 - Learning Through Community Service)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)

Instruction also should promote a student's understanding of shared democratic principles and enable students to make their own commitment to these civic values. Principles may include personal responsibility, justice, equality, respect for others, civic mindedness, and patriotism.

Civic education topics that may be controversial shall be presented in a balanced manner. Students shall not be discriminated against for expressing their ideas and opinions and shall be encouraged to respect different points of view.

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

Student Voter Registration

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 principal or designee may appoint one or more students enrolled at a 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

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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)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5145.13 - Response to Immigration Enforcement)

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)

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.ccass.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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