

CIVIC EDUCATION

Education code 51470-51474, as added by AB 24 (Ch. 604, Statutes of 2017), established the State Seal of Civic Engagement, a voluntary program to recognize high school graduates who have demonstrated excellence in civic education and participation, as well as an understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will provide an insignia that can be affixed to the diploma or transcript of eligible students. In developing criteria for the State Seal of Civic Engagement, the Superintendent shall incorporate the Six Proven Practices for Effective Civic Learning, developed by the Education Commission of the States, and any and all other best practices for civic learning and engagement. In developing criteria for the State Seal of Civic Engagement, the Superintendent shall also consult with a diverse group of credentialed, current, classroom teachers who teach the subject of history-social science, including government, in secondary schools. The Superintendent shall also consider including criteria based on each of the following:

- (1) Successful completion of history, government, and civics courses, including courses that incorporate character education.
 - (2) Voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities.
 - (3) Any other related requirements as it deems appropriate.
- (b) In developing criteria pursuant to subdivision (a), the Superintendent shall ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, that the criteria:
- (1) Provide all pupils with an opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement.
 - (2) Recognize pupil excellence or outstanding achievement.
 - (3) Are not based primarily on pupil achievement that is already recognized through grades or other standard measures of pupil achievement.
 - (4) To the extent possible, result in a seal that confers some benefit to pupils beyond secondary school.
- (c) On or before January 31, 2021, the state board shall adopt, reject, or modify the criteria recommended by the Superintendent pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (d) School district participation in this program is voluntary.

The Governing Board recognizes that involvement in civic and political institutions is essential to a democratic government and desire to provide a comprehensive civic education program to help students acquire the knowledge, skills, and principles essential for informed, engaged, and responsible citizenship.

State standards and guidelines for instruction in civics and government are included in the standards and curriculum framework for history-social science. The history-social science framework contains suggestions

for lessons and activities that include simulations of government, student-led debates, research projects, voter education, and service learning. In addition, the Center for Civic Education has developed voluntary National Standards for Civics and Government describing what students should know and be able to do in the field of civics and government in grades K-4, 5 - 8, and 9 - 12.

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 Superintendent or designee shall determine specific courses within the 9 - 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.

Civic engagement projects, extracurricular 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)

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 exercising including the anniversary of U.S. Constitution
48205 Absence from school for jury duty or precinct board service
49040-49041 Student voter registration
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
1292 Precinct boards, appointment of students
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
6711-6716 Education for Democracy Act

Management Resources:

FEDERAL REGISTER

70 Fed. Reg. 9929727 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

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

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

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>

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