



Shorewood School Board
Resolution in Support of a Comprehensive, Current Civics Education
October 22, 2024

WHEREAS, Section 118.01(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes obligates school boards to provide an instructional program that gives students an understanding of the basic workings of all levels of government, a commitment to the basic values of our government, the skills to participate in political life, and the understanding of the function of organizations in society; and

WHEREAS, the Shorewood School District Board of Education is committed to ensuring that students in the District will contribute to a better world through collaboration and engagement with real-world issues (see Results Policy 3.2); and

WHEREAS, civics education is essential to fostering informed, engaged citizens capable of contributing to our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the study, investigation, interpretation, discussion, and debate of facts and issues related to civics, government, and current events are critical components of a well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, teachers need the ability to engage students intellectual study and discussion about elections, government, and current events; and

WHEREAS, to the extent the study of current events, real-world problems, or civics is controversial, District Policy 2240, Controversial Issues in the Classroom, provides rules and procedures for the study of such matters, fairly balancing and protecting the needs and interests of teachers, students, and parents; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies has issued a position statement advocating for the comprehensive teaching of civics, current events, and elections in social studies classrooms, and has raised concerns about limitations imposed on educators that may prevent students from gaining the civic knowledge necessary to be informed, active members of society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms the District's commitment to provide an instructional program that gives students an understanding of the basic workings of all levels of government, a commitment to the basic values of our government, the skills to participate in political life, and the understanding of the function of organizations in society;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board stands by the right of teachers in the District to teach civics using materials about elections and current events, consistent with District Policy 2240; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms the District's commitment to providing students with the opportunity to engage meaningfully in the study, discussion, and debates about the facts and issues that shape our democracy, in order to cultivate the civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

Emily Berry, School Board President

Becky Freer, Board Vice President
Nathan Hammons, Board Treasurer and Board Governance Officer
Abby Fowler, Board Clerk
Ellen Eckman, Member at Large