

**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 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 K-8 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.

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 a balanced manner that does not promote any particular viewpoint. 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 K-8 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.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## **CIVIC EDUCATION (continued)**

### *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

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](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>

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>

Policy  
adopted: August 17, 2010  
revised: February 19, 2019

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Santee, California