



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 ~~economic~~, 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, ~~fiscally~~ **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 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.~~

~~Since individual economic responsibility is an essential element of citizenship, civics instruction should integrate, but not be limited to, components of money management, borrowing, earning power, financial services, and insurance.~~

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.

(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



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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 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)

During the last two full weeks in April and September, in 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>



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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>