

Adopted by the Board of Education

Resolution No. _____

College, Career and Civic Life

WHEREAS: It is the goal of _____ School District to prepare *all* of our students for career and/or college and civic life.

WHEREAS: Schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills and values needed to effectively participate in our democracy, and research demonstrates that six core activities — known as the Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning¹ — directly improve the quality and effectiveness of civic learning in schools. These practices are: classroom instruction in government, history, law and democracy; discussion of current events; service-learning; extracurricular or cocurricular activities; student voice in school governance; and simulations of democratic processes;

WHEREAS: The success of our nation and state depends on educated, informed and engaged citizens and residents, and California currently ranks 38th of 50 states in civic engagement²;

WHEREAS: The education system has a major role in ensuring students have equitable access to learning how to participate in our democracy. The Local Control Funding Formula recognizes the necessity of investing in the reduction and ultimate removal of inequitable outcomes.

Revitalizing civic learning opportunities in an equitable manner can contribute to meeting these goals;

WHEREAS: We have much to gain by revitalizing civic learning. In addition to the chief benefits of a vibrant and informed civic life and democracy, high-quality civic learning helps teach children the skills they need for the twenty-first century workplace, such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, initiative and innovation. In addition, it can improve school climate and safety, lower a school's dropout rate and promote academic achievement, including in the Common Core State Standards;

WHEREAS: There has never been a better — or more crucial — time to revitalize civic learning in our schools; as we implement sweeping changes, we cannot leave civic learning behind;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of _____ School District requests that the Superintendent and staff work toward creating and implementing a plan for developing the civic literacy of *all* its students by integrating the Six Proven Practices into instructional practice and school life, and ensure that adequate time and resources are dedicated to this goal, with the Superintendent regularly updating the Board with students' civic learning progress. To achieve equity, diversity and inclusion, along with high levels of success:

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The District will administer a short survey of all schools to identify exemplary civic learning to assist in developing plans for increasing equitable access to civic learning in the district.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board intends to lead by example, demonstrating good participatory citizenship by actively reaching out to our constituents, including students; carefully considering the needs and wishes of parents and students; thoroughly deliberating

issues that come before them us, working collaboratively, and appropriately supporting the Superintendent in carrying out the vision of the District so that the students' interests are best served.

¹Guardian of democracy: The civic mission of schools (2011). University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg Public Policy Center.

² Bernardo, R. (2014). 2014's Most and least politically engaged states. WalletHub.
<http://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-politically-engaged-states/7782/#laurie-m-johnson>