

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELK GROVE, CA

RESOLUTION No. 4, 2023-2024

CITIZENSHIP AND CIVIC LEARNING

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Elk Grove Unified School District to prepare all of our students for college, career, and civic life to be model citizens who contribute to the sixth most powerful economy in the world—that being California; and

WHEREAS, schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills, and values needed to effectively participate in our democracy by having classroom instruction in government, history, law, and democracy; discussion of current events; service-learning; extracurricular or co-curricular activities; student voice in school governance; and simulations of democratic processes; and

WHEREAS, students who engage in the community and participate in civic action gain knowledge about school, local and global issues, and are prepared to succeed in college, career, and life; and

WHEREAS, the education system has a major role in ensuring students have equitable access to learning to participate in our democracy. Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) 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; and

WHEREAS, we have much to gain by continued support of civic learning. In addition to the chief benefits of a vibrant and informed civic life and democracy, high-quality civic learning also helps teach children the skills they need for the 21st century workplace such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, initiative, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, youth participation in civic and political life promotes representation of all voices and informed civil dialogue; benefits the local communities; and increases the academic performance and social-emotional well-being of young people; and

WHEREAS, resources are available to assist schools and teachers with continued civic learning; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 24 was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2017 officially establishing a State Seal of Civic Engagement to encourage and create pathways for pupils in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the State Seal of Civic Engagement helps further advance Elk Grove Unified School District's commitment to preparing students to be world-ready and expands civic literacy through requirements to learn about constitutional politics and democratic principles at all levels of the K-12 educational process;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Elk Grove Unified School District formally recognizes that 12th grade students who complete the application and meet the following criteria as outlined by the California Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education on September 10, 2020, will earn the Seal on their diplomas:

- Be engaged in academic work in a productive way.
- Demonstrate a competent understanding of U.S. and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes.
- Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts.
- Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection.
- Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community, and/or society.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Elk Grove Unified School District requests that the Superintendent and staff continue implementing plans for developing the civic literacy of all its students and that the Elk Grove Unified School District will lead by example on what good participatory citizenship looks like 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 us; working collaboratively; and appropriately delegating and supporting the Superintendent of Schools in carrying out the vision of the District so that the students' interests are best served.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to all schools in the district.

Date

CHRISTOPHER R. HOFFMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
and SECRETARY to the GOVERNING BOARD
of ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT