

**Civic Education**

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) recognizes that citizen 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, responsible citizenship.

SCOE's academic standards and curriculum in civics and government are aligned with state academic standards and curriculum frameworks.

The County Superintendent or designee shall determine specific courses within the K-12 curriculum in which civic education and government may be explicitly and systematically taught. S/he also shall encourage the integration of civic education into other subjects as appropriate.

The 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 co-curricular 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.

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.

**Constitution/Citizenship Day**

Each year on or near September 17, in commemoration of Constitution and Citizenship Day, SCOE shall hold an educational program for students in grades K-12 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:

EDUCATION CODE

- 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
- 51210 Courses of study, grades 1-6
- 51220 Courses of study, grades 7-12

ELECTIONS CODE

- 12302 Precinct boards, appointment of students

UNITED STATES CODE

- Title 20, 6711-6716 Education for Democracy Act
- Title 36, 101-144 Patriotic observances

**Policy 6142.3 (Continued)**

Policy Cross-Reference:

- 1400 Relations With Other Governmental Agencies
- 6000 Concepts and Roles
- 6011 Academic Standards
- 6115 Ceremonies and Observances
- 6141 Curriculum Development and Evaluation
- 6142.4 Service Learning/Community Service Classes
- 6143 Courses of Study
- 6145 Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities
- 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements