

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION #20/21-24

In Support of Civic Learning and the California State Seal of Civic Engagement

WHEREAS, schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills and values needed to effectively contribute to and participate in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the success of the nation and state depends on education, informed and engaged citizens and residents, and California currently ranks 38th of 50 states in civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education recognizes the importance of its influence to promote efforts to develop students' civic literacy directly in the programs within the Conejo Valley Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for Social Studies framework guidance enhances the rigor of K-12 civics education and has identified Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning:

- Classroom instruction in government, history, geography, law, democracy and economics;
- Discussion of current events and controversial issues;
- Service learning experiences that are directly linked to curriculum and instruction;
- Extracurricular activities;
- Student participation in school governance;
- Simulations of democratic processes; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards in History/Social Science work require that students learn to analyze multiple perspectives and be able to determine the central ideas or information of a primary and secondary source; and

WHEREAS, the Conejo Valley Unified School District recognizes the urgent need and many benefits of civic learning that are essential to prepare students for college, career and citizenship as outlined in Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning in California: a Blueprint For Action. A Report By The Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning; and

WHEREAS, the Conejo Valley Unified School District has a history of supporting civic engagement and learning through various programs such as My Vote Student Mock Elections, Annual Constitution Day, Student District Advisory Committee; and

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; and

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, communication, 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.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that through these many efforts, the Board of Education will promote community and students' civic literacy, and the attainment of the *California State Seal of Civic Engagement* by all Conejo Valley Unified School District students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of March, 2021, at a regular meeting of the Conejo Valley Unified School District.

Attest:



Karen Sylvester, Clerk, Board of Education



Mark W. McLaughlin, Superintendent