

**CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION  
CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS RESOLUTION  
2005**

The Civic Mission of Schools

WHEREAS democracy is created anew by each generation;

WHEREAS preparing each generation to understand our local, state and national systems of government, support democratic principles, and develop the civic skills and dispositions needed by effective citizens, was a primary reason for the creation of public schools;

WHEREAS our citizens have overwhelmingly agreed over the course of 33 years of Gallup polling that “educating young people for responsible citizenship” should be the primary purpose of our schools because it is essential to the well-being of American constitutional government;

WHEREAS our public schools are meeting places for all our young people and a natural place to provide instruction and experience with democratic principles;

WHEREAS the democratic principles that underlie our society, such as republicanism, separation of powers, checks and balances, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, support for diversity, and the need to balance freedom with order, are difficult to understand unless they are given practical meaning as young people mature;

WHEREAS the importance of students’ grasp of the concepts of civic responsibility and respect for others cannot be underestimated;

WHEREAS the history social science framework goals now guiding California schools call for the integration of knowledge and cultural understanding, democratic understanding and civic values and skills attainment and social participation;

WHEREAS state law requires only a single semester long course in government in the twelfth grade, which we believe is both too little and too late;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, and CCSESA urges the State Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase, broaden, and make explicit in every grade the study and application of the principals and practices of democracy as an integrated part of history-social science instruction and of school life.