



**Montebello Unified School District  
Resolution No. 17 (2005-2006)**



**The Civic Mission of Schools**

**WHEREAS**, preparing each generation to understand and support democratic principles is the responsibility of all of our institutions and 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;

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that our schools are an effective place to provide instruction in and opportunities for the application of democratic principles and that early adolescence is a particularly critical time for civic education;

**WHEREAS**, the democratic principles that underlie our society, the structure and functions of government, and the rights, responsibilities and participation of citizens should be a continual and meaningful part of instruction throughout every child’s education;

**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 and state law now guiding California schools in this area require only a single semester-long course in government in the twelfth grade and do not provide systematic or sustained attention to civic education K-12;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Montebello Unified School District urges the State Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden emphasis on principles and practices of democracy in the schools of the state.

Subscribed to and ordered to become a part of the official minutes of the Montebello Unified School District Board of Education this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2006

---

Richard L. Adams II, President

---

Edwin Chau, Vice-President

---

Hector A. Chacon, Clerk

---

Gerri Guzman, Member

---

Marcella Calderon, Member