



SAN DIEGO COUNTY

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS

This measure urges the San Diego County Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden emphasis on principles of democracy in the schools of this state.

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; and

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; and

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

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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, State law requires that secondary pupils complete only a single semester-long course in government/civics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Diego County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools support the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, promoting greater civic education in the K-12 public schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of November, 2005, at the regular meeting of the San Diego County Board of Education.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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