

Davis Joint Unified School District

Board Resolution No. 47-21

State Seal of Civic Engagement

WHEREAS, in October 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 24 into law requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before January 1, 2020, to recommend to the State Board of Education criteria for awarding a State Seal of Civic Engagement to pupils who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, a hallmark of the State Seal of Civic Engagement is its accessibility to all students, regardless of their backgrounds, communities, and experiences; and taking into consideration how local education agencies can support California's most underserved students in earning the Seal in ways that may not always mirror traditional student paths to civic engagement and learning; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2020, the State Board of Education adopted criteria and guidance to award a State Seal of Civic Engagement to California students who demonstrate excellence in civics education and participation, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, the five criteria are meant to provide local educational agencies with a framework for making determinations of student qualifications required to earn the Seal, based on their own local contexts. The criteria are written to ensure that no student is excluded from an opportunity to earn the Seal based on academic ability, alternative school settings, or unique or unconventional expressions of civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, in order to earn the Seal, students must (1) be engaged in academic work in a productive way; (2) demonstrate a competent understanding of United States and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes; (3) participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts; (4) demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection; and (5) exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community and/or society; and

WHEREAS, by adopting these criteria, California joined a small but growing number of states that formally recognize and promote student civic engagement with seals to affix to student transcripts, diplomas, or certificates of completion; and

WHEREAS, DJUSD is committed to preparing all students to be informed, responsible, actively engaged citizens, committed to strengthening our American democracy by becoming civically engaged in solving real world problems; and

WHEREAS, DJUSD has a long history of providing high-quality civic learning professional development, instructional resources, and programming including the Yolo County Youth Civic Initiative, Youth Empowerment Summit, and Mock Trial Team.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Davis Joint Unified School District support the State Seal of Civic Engagement and for DJUSD to provide opportunities for all students to participate in school-based civic engagement activities beginning in elementary school; and establish local criteria and a process for high school students to qualify to earn the Seal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District hereby support supports DJUSD efforts to provide opportunities for all students to earn the Seal of Civic Engagement by providing civic learning instructional resources and technical assistance to schools; and to provide DJUSD schools with appropriate resources, support, and opportunities to strengthen students' civic learning capacities to appropriately address real world problems in our democratic society; to pilot Civic Engagement opportunities during Spring 2021 and revisit progress, indicators, and assessment tools that support the Seal of Civic Engagement in DJUSD.

Passed and Adopted by the Davis Joint Unified School District Board of Education at a regular meeting of the Board of Education on March 18, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

By: _____

Joe DiNunzio

President, Governing Board of the
Davis Joint Unified School District

ATTEST: _____

John Bowes, Ed. D.
Secretary, Governing Board of the
Davis Joint Unified School District