

Policy 6142.5: Environmental Education

Status: ADOPTED

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Governing Board recognizes that schools play a crucial role in educating students about the relationship between humans and the natural world and in preparing them to have the skills, knowledge, and principles needed to solve environmental problems. The Board believes that all students should understand ecological systems and the impact of human action on such systems, including, but not limited to, climate change. The district's environmental education program shall promote environmental literacy and shall prepare students to be stewards of natural resources and live an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

The district's local control and accountability plan may include local goals and priorities for environmental literacy.

The district's environmental education program may be taught across the district curriculum in science, history-social science, English language arts, health, and, to the extent practicable, mathematics. Such instruction shall be aligned with state-adopted standards and curriculum frameworks and may include, but not be limited to, the interactions and interdependence of human societies and natural systems, people's dependence and influence on natural systems, the ways that natural systems change and how people can benefit and influence that change, the fact that there are no boundaries to prevent matter from flowing between systems, and the fact that decisions affecting resources and natural systems are complex and involve many factors.

The district's program may also provide for active student participation in onsite resource conservation and management programs and the promotion of service learning partnerships. The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with other local educational agencies and/or community-based organizations to enhance the curriculum and learning experiences provided to students.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that environment-based learning experiences are made available on an equitable basis and that the environmental literacy curriculum reflects the linguistic, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of California.

As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development for teachers in the development and effective implementation of curriculum and activities inside and outside of the classroom that promote environmental literacy.
