

Policy Code: 3530 Citizenship

The Board encourages all students to develop an understanding of citizenship, including the importance of a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

Instructional Requirements

The curriculum committee, established in Policy 3100, Curriculum Development, will develop curriculum to include citizenship. At a minimum, the curriculum will incorporate all statutory and State Board of Education requirements concerning civics, citizenship, and character education. In addition to meeting any state requirements, the curriculum should also be designed to reinforce the school's code of conduct plan for students. The curriculum will include character education instruction as required by [G.S. 115C-81.60](#). Such instruction should address character traits including, but not limited to, those identified in Policy 3531, Character Education: courage, good judgment, integrity/honesty, kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, stewardship, citizenship, and personal growth, as well as responsibilities such as respect for school personnel, responsibility for school safety, service to others, and good citizenship.

The curriculum also must include appropriate instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and instruction on the meaning and historical origins of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, and may include guidelines for the use and display of the North Carolina and United States flags. The principal shall ensure that students will not be compelled to stand or salute the flag. The principal shall ensure that no student will be compelled to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or otherwise feel coerced to participate. If United States flags are donated or made available, flags shall be displayed in each classroom.

Constitution and Citizenship Day will be observed on September 17 (or during the preceding or following week if students are not in school on September 17) to commemorate the signing of the United States constitution. Appropriate instruction and/or recognition will be provided concerning the significance of Memorial Day.

Service Learning

The curriculum will include service learning for middle school and high school students in order to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of service to the community. The service learning program must provide students with (1) sufficient notice of the service requirement; (2) enough options to meet the interests and transportation needs of the students; and, (3) it must not infringe on the constitutional rights of students.

Controversial Issues and Speakers

In preparing for effective citizenship, students should be provided with opportunities to hear, discuss and study controversial issues and speakers. Teachers must be free to conduct such discussions and invite such speakers without fear of reprisal, as long as they maintain a high level of professional impartiality and present a balanced range of views.

Teaching About Race

The study of the role of race in this country is an important element of citizenship education. The curriculum should incorporate the study of race. Instructional programs in the school district should promote respect, mutual understanding and sensitivity to the history of race in the United States and its impact on modern America.

Teaching About Religion

The study of the role of religion in this country and the separation of church and state is an important element of citizenship education. Public schools may not promote or inhibit religion.

Where appropriate, the curriculum should incorporate the study of religion. Such studies as part of the curriculum are not to be celebrations of religious teachings in a manner that is devotional or doctrinal in violation of the Constitution. Furthermore, instructional programs in the school district should promote respect, mutual understanding and sensitivity to the various religious beliefs held by members of our society.

Legal References: [U.S. Constitution](#) amendment I; [N.C. Constitution art. I](#), § 14; [P.L. 108-447](#), div. J, title I, sec. 111 (codified as a statutory note to [36 U.S.C. 106\(d\)](#)); [G.S. 115C-47](#)(29a), [-81.45](#), [-81.60](#); Section 111 of Division J of Public Law [108-447](#).

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (Policy [3000](#)), Curriculum Development (Policy [3100](#)), Academic Freedom (Policy [3105](#)), Graduation Requirements Policy [3460](#), Religious-Based Exemptions From School Programs (Policy 3510), Character Education (Policy 3531), Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying (Policy 1710)

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
