

CSBA Sample Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6142.5(a)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Note: **The following optional policy may be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Public Resources Code 71300-71304, the Office of Education and the Environment within the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has developed "environmental principles and concepts," which have been adopted by the State Board of Education. For further information, see the web site of the California Education and the Environment Initiative.**

~~Pursuant to Public Resources Code 71300-71304, the California Office of Education and the Environment, within the state Integrated Waste Management Board, has developed a model curriculum based on environmental education principles which will be incorporated into the state's criteria for textbook adoption and, pursuant to Education Code 33541, into the science curriculum framework adopted by the State Board of Education.~~

~~The following **optional** policy is consistent with the state's education principles for the environment and may be revised to reflect district practice.~~

~~The Governing Board recognizes that schools play a crucial role in educating students about the importance of the environment and in preparing them to be stewards of natural resources. The Board believes that students should value the environment, respect all life forms, understand the basic ecological principles which support the planet, and live an ecologically responsible life style.~~ **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.**

(cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

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

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Note: Education Code 51210 requires the adopted course of study for grades 1-6 to include instruction on the relations of persons to their human and natural environment, the wise use of natural resources, and science instruction on the place of humans in the ecological systems. In grades 7-12, Education Code 51220 requires study of the relations of persons to their human and natural environment and science instruction that emphasizes the place of humans in ecological systems. See AR 6143 - Courses of Study.

Pursuant to Education Code 51227.3, the environmental principles and concepts must be integrated into the state content standards, curriculum frameworks, and textbook criteria in the subjects of

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English language arts, science, history-social science, health, and, to the extent practicable, mathematics. To date, the environmental principles and concepts have only been integrated into the science and history-social science curriculum frameworks.

The following optional paragraph reflects the content of the state-adopted environmental principles and concepts.

~~The Superintendent or designee shall develop an environmental education program that is aligned with state academic standards and curriculum frameworks. The Superintendent or designee shall determine how the district's environmental education program will be integrated into the district's science curriculum and other subjects and courses in which the concepts may be explicitly and systematically taught.~~

~~(cf. 6011—Academic Standards)~~

~~(cf. 6141—Curriculum Development and Evaluation)~~

~~(cf. 6142.93—Science Instruction)~~

~~(cf. 6143—Courses of Study)~~

The goal of the district's environmental education program shall be to provide students with an understanding of **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.

~~(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)~~

~~(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)~~

~~(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)~~

~~(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)~~

Note: Pursuant to Public Resources Code **71300-71304** ~~71300 and 71304~~, the California CalRecycle's Office of Education and the Environment has developed environmental education resources, including a model **curriculum programs** and successful strategies, to help districts coordinate best practices for environment-based education and environmental science and technology. Further information can be found on the ~~California Integrated Waste Management Board's web site.~~ **California Education and the Environment Initiative's web site.**

~~The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students have access to high-quality instructional materials and opportunities for hands-on, real world learning experiences in environmental education both inside and outside the classroom. The district's program shall may also provide for emphasize a coordination of instructional resources with~~ active student

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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.**

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)

(cf. 3511.1 - Integrated Waste Management)

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6153 - School-Sponsored Trips)

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.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

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.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)

(cf. 3511.1 - Integrated Waste Management)

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6153 - School-Sponsored Trips)

Legal References: (see next page)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8700-8707 Environmental education

8720-8723 Conservation education service

8760-8773 Outdoor science, conservation, and forestry

33541 Science requirements

37222 John Muir; recognition of his contributions

51210 Areas of study, grades 1-6

51220 Areas of study, grades 7-12

51227.3 Environmental principles and concepts

51795-51797 School instructional gardens

60041 Ecological systems and their protection

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

71300-71305 Statewide environmental education

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Environmental Protection Agency, Education and the Environment Initiative:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI>

California Department of Education, Environmental Education and **Environmental Literacy:**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/oeintrod.asp>

California Education and the Environment Initiative: <https://www.californiaeei.org>

California Integrated Waste Management Board, School Waste Management Education and

Assistance: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools>

California Regional Environmental Education Community: <http://www.creec.org>

Green Schoolyards America: <https://www.greenschoolyards.org>

Green Schoolyards America, National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative:

<https://www.greenschoolyards.org/covid-learn-outside>

North American Association for Environmental Education:

<https://naaee.org/our-work/programs/eeworks>