

StudentsStudent Voter Registration

The Board of Education recognizes that community engagement and civic participation are important parts of a student's education. The Board also regards the right to vote as one of the most important rights of citizenship in a democratic country. The Board holds as a high priority the important role of all staff members in informing students of the importance of registering to vote and assisting students in this process.

The Board of Education acknowledges the California Secretary of State's encouragement for school districts to participate in voter registration activities.

"It is the intent of the Legislature that every eligible high school and college student receive a meaningful opportunity to apply to register to vote. It is also the intent of the Legislature that every school does all in its power to ensure that students are provided the opportunity and means to apply to register to vote." (California Elections Code 2146).

The Superintendent or designee shall provide administrative regulations concerning the process of student voter registration in the District. Under the direction of the Superintendent or designee, each high school will designate a staff contact person and provide his/her address, telephone number, and email address to the Secretary of State to facilitate the distribution of voter registration materials.

Legal Foundations

California State law allows 16- and 17-year olds to pre-register to vote with their voter registration coming into effect as soon as they turn 18.

Assembly Bill 1817 (Statutes of 2014) designates the last two full weeks in April and September as *High School Voter Education Weeks* and encourages school districts to conduct voter registration and education drives on campuses and in classrooms during these four weeks.

California Elections Code 2146 requires the Secretary of State to annually provide high schools with enough voter registration forms for all students who are of voting age or will be of voting age by the end of the year. As added by SB 854 (Ch. 481, Statutes of 2007), Elections Code 2148 requires every high school to designate a contact person and provide his/her address, telephone number, and email address to the Secretary of State to facilitate the distribution of voter registration materials.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

49040-49041 High School Voter Education Weeks; High School Voter Outreach Coordinators

ELECTIONS CODE

2000 Persons Entitled to Vote; Pre-registration

2102(d) Affidavit of Registration

2145-2148 Student Voter Registration Act of 2003