



Board of Education Report

File #: Res-033-24/25, Version: 1

Ms. Goldberg - Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Contemporary Political Issues Course (Res-033-24/25)
(Waiver of Board Rule 72)

Whereas, Los Angeles Unified School District seeks to ensure that all its graduates are “Ready for the World,” and our Strategic Plan states that this includes four key characteristics: (1) Advocates for self and others, (2) Open-minded, (3) Adaptable, and (4) Effective communicators;

Whereas, To be Ready for the World by this definition requires students to be critical thinkers, to be able to understand current events, to be able to understand how events impact our politics, to know the effects of specific policy proposals, and to be able to understand all sides of key political issues;

Whereas, It is the District’s responsibility to prepare students to be able to make distinctions between news and opinion in an increasingly fractured information environment rife with misinformation, polarization, and questionable sources; and

Whereas, It is in the interest of all students to learn to navigate and participate in our political system, and that they emerge from their school years eager to advocate for themselves and their community, exercise their right to vote, and participate in democratic institutions and practices beyond the vote; now, therefore be it,

Resolved, That the Superintendent and the Division of Instruction will study the feasibility of establishing a senior high-level course on Contemporary Political Issues, including whether such a course would be considered an elective or required course, what topics such a course would cover, what credentials and professional development would be required to ensure the District has the workforce to implement this new course, and what would be the most appropriate grade or grades for students to take this course;

Resolved further, That this study should consider what age appropriate changes to Los Angeles Unified School District curriculum throughout students’ school years would best prepare students to take this new course during senior high and derive the greatest benefit from it; and, be it finally

Resolved, That within 160 days the Superintendent and the Division of Instruction will report back to the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District about the feasibility of establishing a Contemporary Political Issues course.