

# **MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS**

## **Board Policy**

**BP 6142.5**

### **INSTRUCTION**

#### **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.

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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.

The district recognizes the importance of providing high-quality instruction and materials to its students. In an effort to support local communities and promote sustainable practices, the district will prioritize the use of locally sourced materials in its instructional programs, whenever feasible. By prioritizing the use of locally sourced materials, the district aims to provide students with high-quality instruction that is both relevant to their community and environmentally responsible.

*Policy Reference Disclaimer:*

*These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Ed. Code 33541</i>	<i>Science requirements</i>
<i>Ed. Code 37222</i>	<i>John Muir; recognition of his contributions</i>
<i>Ed. Code 51210</i>	<i>Course of study for grades 1-6</i>
<i>Ed. Code 51220</i>	<i>Course of study for grades 7-12</i>
<i>Ed. Code 51227.3</i>	<i>Environmental principles and concepts</i>
<i>Ed. Code 51795-51797</i>	<i>School instructional gardens</i>
<i>Ed. Code 60041</i>	<i>Ecological systems and their protection</i>
<i>Ed. Code 8700-8707</i>	<i>Environmental education</i>
<i>Ed. Code 8720-8723</i>	<i>Conservation education service</i>
<i>Ed. Code 8760-8773</i>	<i>Outdoor science, conservation, and forestry</i>
<i>Pub. Res. Code 71300-71305</i>	<i>Statewide environmental education</i>
<i>Management Resources</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>North American Association for Environmental Education</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>Green Schoolyards America, National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>Green Schoolyards America</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>California Department of Education, Environmental Education and Environmental Literacy</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>California Education and the Environment Initiative</i>

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<i>Website</i>	<i>California Regional Environmental Education Community</i>
<i>Cross References</i>	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>0410</i>	<i>Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities</i>
<i>0415</i>	<i>Equity</i>
<i>0460</i>	<i>Local Control And Accountability Plan 1400 Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools</i>
<i>3260</i>	<i>Fees And Charges</i>
<i>3510</i>	<i>Green School Operations</i>
<i>3511</i>	<i>Energy And Water Management</i>
<i>3511.1</i>	<i>Integrated Waste Management</i>
<i>3514</i>	<i>Environmental Safety</i>
<i>4131</i>	<i>Staff Development</i>
<i>5030</i>	<i>Student Wellness</i>
<i>6000</i>	<i>Concepts And Roles</i>
<i>6011</i>	<i>Academic Standards</i>
<i>6141</i>	<i>Curriculum Development And Evaluation</i>
<i>6142.3</i>	<i>Civic Education</i>
<i>6142.4</i>	<i>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</i>
<i>6142.8</i>	<i>Comprehensive Health Education</i>
<i>6142.93</i>	<i>Science Instruction</i>
<i>6143</i>	<i>Courses Of Study</i>
<i>6153</i>	<i>School-Sponsored Trips</i>

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ADOPTED: February 11, 2020  
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