

Resolution No. 2021/2022-72

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF
THE STATE SEAL OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Palm Springs Unified School District is to provide engaging, innovative, and equitable learning experiences for all students;

WHEREAS, Palm Springs Unified School District values developing the civic-mindedness of all students;

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 24 was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2017, officially establishing a State Seal of Civic Engagement to encourage and create pathways for pupils in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels;

WHEREAS, the positive aspects of civic learning encourage student achievement and engagement, critical thinking, and positive school climate, and the civic attitudes, beliefs, and skills developed when people are young affect their civic participation over their lifetimes;

WHEREAS, the educational system plays a critical role in aiding students to expand civic skills and values, and to develop the long-term social, political, and civic participation of Palm Springs Unified youth through school and community projects that they find meaningful;

WHEREAS, the civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions students gain from completing State Seal of Civic Engagement aligned projects would provide greater opportunities for underrepresented students to excel;

WHEREAS, youth participation in civic and political life promotes representation of all voices and informed civil dialogue, benefits the local communities, and increases the academic performance and social-emotional well-being of young people;

WHEREAS, the State Seal of Civic Engagement helps further advance Palm Springs Unified School District's commitment to preparing students to be world-ready and expands civic literacy through requirements to learn about constitutional politics and democratic principles at all levels of the K-12 education process;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT formally adopts the California State Seal of Civic Engagement whereby, beginning with the graduating class of 2022, students who meet the following criteria, as outlined by the California Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education on September 10, 2020, will earn the Seal on their diplomas:

- Be engaged in academic work in a productive way.
- Demonstrate a competent understanding of U.S. and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes.
- Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts.
- Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection.
- Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community, and/or society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT will develop a plan to

- Ensure all students beginning with the senior class of 2025 have the access and opportunities to meet the criteria of the Seal before they complete their senior year of high school;
- Implement robust and high-quality civic engagement practices beginning in elementary school in order to fully prepare students for participation in their school and local communities;
- Support elementary, middle, and high schools in the implementation of projects that will earn students recognition for civic engagement at 6th and 8th grade promotion and high school graduation;
- Annually assess and reflect upon students' exposure to civic learning opportunities as well as the extent to which civic learning opportunities aligned to the Seal are accessible to all students;
- Support schools with the implementation of their plans to provide civic learning opportunities for all students;
- Provide a space for students to showcase their work to the broader community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education this 12th day of October 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

I, Madonna Gerrell, Clerk to the Governing Board of the Palm Springs Unified School District, Riverside County, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly approved and adopted by the Governing Board at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

Madonna Gerrell,
Clerk to the Governing Board
Palm Springs Unified School District