

Patriotic, Civic, and Character Education

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1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

Wasatch Charter School will teach patriotic education in the social studies curricula of kindergarten through grade twelve. All educators shall have responsibility for patriotic, civic, and character education taught in an integrated school curriculum and in the regular course of school work.

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which promote an upright and desirable citizenry.
- B. "Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States.
- C. "Patriotic" means having love and dedication to one's country.
- D. "Patriotic education" means the educational and systemic process to help students identify, acquire, and act upon a dedication to one's country.

3. SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIRED INSTRUCTION

A. Patriotic, civic and character education programs shall meet the requirements of Sections 53G-10-302, 53G-10-304, and 53G-10-204.

B. Wasatch Charter School shall teach students the history of the flag, etiquette, customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag, and other patriotic exercises consistent with Subsection 53G-10-304(2).

C. The school shall provide the setting and opportunities to teach by example and role modeling patriotic values associated with the flag of the United States.

E. Instruction in United States history and government shall include:

(1) a study of forms of government including:

(i) a republic;

- (ii) a pure democracy;

- (iii) a monarchy; and

- (iv) an oligarchy.

(2) political philosophies and economic systems including:

- (i) socialism;

- (ii) individualism; and

- (iii) free market capitalism.

- (iv) the United States' form of government, a compound constitutional republic.

(3) School curricula and activities shall include a thorough study of historical documents such as:

- (i) the Declaration of Independence;

- (ii) the United States Constitution;

- (iii) the national motto;

- (iv) the pledge of allegiance;

- (v) the national anthem;

- (vi) the Mayflower Compact;

- (vii) the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founders and the Presidents of the United States;

- (viii) organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial, Revolutionary, Federalist, and post Federalist eras;

- (ix) United States Supreme Court decisions;

- (x) Acts of the United States Congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record; and

(xi) United States treaties.

4. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Education about the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag shall be taught and modeled following the plan of the social studies Core Curriculum in grades kindergarten through six.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag shall be recited by students at the beginning of each school day in each public school classroom in the state, consistent with Subsection 53G-10-304(3).
- C. At least once per year, students shall be instructed that;
 - 1. Participation in the Pledge of Allegiance is voluntary and not compulsory;
 - 2. It is acceptable for an individual to choose not to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance for religious or other reasons; and
 - 3. Students should show respect for individuals who participate and individuals who choose not to participate.
- D. A public school teacher shall strive to maintain an atmosphere among students in the classroom that is consistent with the principles described above.

5. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- A. Wasatch Charter School shall display IN GOD WE TRUST, the national motto of the United States, in one or more prominent places in each school building, consistent with Subsection 53G-10-302(6).
- B. Civic and character education shall be achieved through an integrated school curriculum and in the regular course of school work.
- C. Instruction in United States History and government shall be taught consistent with the Utah social studies core curriculum.
- D. Wasatch Charter School shall make information about the flag, respect for the flag and civility for all during patriotic activities available on the Wasatch Charter School website.

6. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Wasatch Charter School shall adequately notify students and parents of lawful exemptions to the requirement to participate in reciting the Pledge.

REFERENCES:

R277-475, et. all., 53G-10-302, 53G-10-304, 53G-10-204