

The Student Voter Education & Registration Resolution

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Education of The School District of Philadelphia to declare that we believe that we must ensure that all students have access to an education that teaches and promotes the importance of civic engagement and voter registration.

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia (“City”) has an expressed public commitment to ensuring that the youth of Philadelphia have access to voter education and registration opportunities across the City;

WHEREAS, The School District of Philadelphia (“District”) serves as a designated voter registration agency as identified in federal and state law;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to the goal of ensuring that every student has access to core academic knowledge and opportunity of experience that will prepare them for post-secondary success;

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education recognizes student voter registration as an important element of preparation for adult life;

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to the goal of providing students with a well-rounded educational experience that encourages civic engagement and participation;

WHEREAS, the Board encourages students to pursue and maintain civic engagement through voter education programs, by encouraging their peers and families to become civically engaged through participation in all federal, state, and local elections;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and acknowledges the importance of continued partnership with local City Commissioners and key stakeholders to support the ongoing efforts to increase civic engagement and voter registration among all eligible students in the City;

WHEREAS, the Board upholds the District’s expressed commitment to ensuring that every school has the resources to provide sustainable year-round opportunities for eligible students to be registered to vote before they graduate, and to continue to vote and make informed decisions about voting;

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges voter registration as a critical component of the civic education of our students and previously designated September 24, 2019 as Voter Registration Day in The School District of Philadelphia and encouraged all schools to

use that day to educate students about the importance of voting and to support eligible students in the process of voter registration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District shall, in accordance with law, provide eligible students with access to official voter registration information, as follows:

(1) Any request by a student to be provided voter registration materials and/or information shall immediately be provided to the appropriate school official, granting the student access to necessary information;

(2) The District shall continue to maintain its practice of providing eligible students with comprehensive information related to supporting their knowledge of civic engagement and voting rights as a critical element of social science instruction;

(3) The District shall continue to maintain the opportunity for all eligible staff to become Voter Champions within their school communities, to support eligible students to become registered to vote before they graduate;

(4) The District shall continue to maintain, annually, the fourth Tuesday of the month of September, or if school is closed that day, the immediately following school day, as The School District of Philadelphia Student Voter Registration Day, throughout the District;

(5) The District shall continue to maintain its practice of providing eligible students with year-round opportunities to engage in voter registration activities and continue to carry out year-round initiatives related to these efforts; and

(6) District-implemented voter registration education initiatives and efforts shall be non-partisan and without pressure or influence on any individual or group of individuals to register to vote for any particular political party, to vote for any particular candidate, or to solicit campaign contributions.