

Instruction

CALIFORNIA THREE Rs PROJECT

The Calaveras Unified School District Board of Education supports the principles and materials used in the California Three Rs Project, as stated in the Board resolution of December 6, 1994. The Governing Board recognizes that only through an understanding of the facts and values that shape our society, and an understanding of issues currently confronting society, can students be afforded an opportunity to acquire the fundamental qualifications for citizenship in a growing, changing society.

We believe that the teaching of the rights, responsibilities and respect for ourselves and others as good citizens through a better understanding of the First Amendment and its history are consistent with the District's Mission and the District's Strategic Plan (Goals #4, 5, 6 and 7).

Through voluntary use of materials provided in the California Three Rs Project, the teaching staff can integrate First Amendment principles into its ongoing curriculum.

The district has a responsibility to teach students to search for answers that will help lead to a happy life as a good citizen in a diverse society.

The Board believes that:

1. Students should be taught to be willing to take a stand on societal issues, yet maintain an attitude of open-mindedness toward other beliefs and points of view.
2. Students should be taught that accurate information and critical thinking will discourage the arbitrary acceptance of unsound proposals for solving social and ethical issues.
3. A knowledge of our history and the focus that has shaped our society will lead to more enlightened judgment and decisions by our students regarding social and ethical issues.

Serious consideration should be given to social, ethical and religious issues in our public schools since respect for facts and an impartial search for truth are inherent in our American democratic society. Issues selected for discussion and investigation should be significant and of interest to students and add to the overall curriculum.

CALIFORNIA THREE Rs PROJECT (continued)

Instructional programs may include references to religion and may use religious literature, art, music or symbols to illustrate the subject matter being taught. Such instruction should be designed to broaden the students' understanding of social and cultural history and tolerance for the multiple ways of life practiced by the peoples of the world. Instruction about religious holidays shall be carefully tied to these educational objectives.

Factual and objective teaching about religion must be distinguished from religious indoctrination, which is clearly forbidden in public schools. The schools may teach about religion from a historical, cultural, sociological or other educational perspective, but must not favor the beliefs and customs of any particular religions or sect over any others in such teaching.

Staff shall be highly sensitive to its obligation not to interfere with the philosophical / religious development of each student in whatever tradition the student does or does not embrace. The students' physical, mental and emotional well-being is the concern of all district personnel.

Instruction that is contrary to a student's religious beliefs and teachings may be optional for that student in accordance with the Education Code or at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

The Governing Board recognizes that holidays demonstrate the diversity and rich heritage of our community members; classroom instruction should respect and honor these traditions.

The Calaveras Unified School District Governing Board believes that the above principles and concepts can best be achieved by the use of the California Three Rs Project philosophy and curriculum.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44806 Duty concerning instruction of pupils concerning morals, manners, and citizenship

State Board of Education Handbook on the Legal Rights and Responsibilities of School Personnel and Students in Moral and Civic Education and Teaching about Religion

Second Reading/Adoption:
July 11, 1995

CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Andreas, California