

Resolution 2223R-012
Student Voter Education & Registration

Directors Peterson and Leonard

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies (SS.PS2.b.h) state that students in grades 9-12 should “[d]emonstrate the skills necessary to participate in the election process (i.e., registering to vote, identifying and evaluating candidates and issues, and casting a ballot);” and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies (SS.PS3.a.h) state that students in grades 9-12 should, “create and evaluate solutions to increase voter participation;” and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools should ensure that all students have access to an education that teaches and promotes the importance of civic engagement and voter registration; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors recognizes that student voter registration is an important element of preparation for adult life; and

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

WHEREAS, The Board believes that all students should be registered to vote before they graduate from school and be equipped to make informed decisions about voting; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Administration, in accordance with state law and the Wisconsin Standard for Social Studies, develop a specific plan and timeline to increase voter registration and actual voting by eligible high school students; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the plan and timeline be developed collaboratively, with participating groups to include, but not be limited to, the League of Women Voters, Souls to the Polls, the Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association, and appropriate MPS groups/departments such as Parent Coordinators, Student Services, Transportation, Guidance/Counseling, Social Work, College and Career Readiness, and the Social Studies team; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the planning process consider the inclusion of the following provisions:

- 1) That any request by a student to be provided voter registration information be forwarded to the appropriate school official, granting the student access to necessary information; and
- 2) Opportunities for all qualified staff to become Voter Champions within their school communities to support eligible students to register to vote before they graduate; and
- 3) A formal recognition within the District that annually, on the fourth Tuesday of the month of September, Student Voter Registration Day will be recognized within Milwaukee Public Schools;
- (4) That the District provides eligible students with year-round opportunities to engage in voter registration activities and to carry out year-round initiatives related to these efforts; and

(5) The District develop two-month time lines in advance of spring and fall election days to ensure that all students who are 18 by the election day have time and support to obtain necessary documents and, if necessary, transportation to DMV offices so that qualifying students may obtain an identification that will allow them to vote; and

(6) Any other provisions that surface during conversations with the participating groups and MPS departments; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That 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; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration report back to the full board during its February board cycle so that the plan can be implemented before the general election in April 2023; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That after the April 2023 election the Board and Administration consider ways to improve the process for subsequent election cycles.

Introduced November 17, 2022