

Resolution 2223R-012
Student Voter Education & Registration
As Adopted December 22, 2022

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, such as but not limited to, the League of Women Voters, Souls to the Polls, Administrators and Supervisors Council, the Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association, the City of Milwaukee Election Commission, and appropriate MPS departments such as Strategic Partnership and Customer Service, Student Services, Transportation, Specialized Services, College and Career Readiness, and Curriculum and Instruction; 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) That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors designate the fourth Tuesday of September, “Student Voter Registration Day” which shall be recognized within Milwaukee Public Schools;
- 3) That the District shall provide eligible students with voter registration information to include but not limited to a fact sheet outlining how and where to register to vote and where to vote on election days. This information shall be available for students on-going during the course of the school year; and

4) The District shall 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

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, Administration shall report back to the full board during its February board cycle so that the plan can be implemented as of the February 2023 Board meeting.

Introduced November 17, 2022