

**Resolution 2223R-017**  
**Fulfilling Social Studies Standards: Civic Engagement**

By Directors Garcia and Peterson

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Social Studies Standards are described by the DPI as an “important foundation to prepare students to become engaged, informed participants committed to the ideas and values of our democratic republic,” and

WHEREAS, The key pedagogical approach promoted by the Social Studies Standards is “inquiry” based-learning which is defined as “A systematic investigation with five distinct parts: questioning, research, analysis, communication of results, and civic engagement,” and

WHEREAS, The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) *College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards* (NCSS, 2013), specifically endorses student activism as follows:

Civics is not limited to the study of politics and society; it also encompasses participation in classrooms and schools, neighborhoods, groups, and organizations . . . In civics, students learn to contribute appropriately to public processes and discussions of real issues. Their contributions to public discussions may take many forms, ranging from personal testimony to abstract arguments. They will also learn civic practices such as voting, volunteering, jury service, and joining with others to improve society. Civics enables students not only to study how others participate, but also to practice participating and taking informed action themselves. (p. 31) and;

WHEREAS, The aforementioned civic practice of voter education and of voting is being addressed via implementation of Resolution 2223R-012 (Student Voter Education and Registration, adopted December 2022); and

WHEREAS, Student participation in voting and other forms of civic engagement helps develop students’ disposition, confidence and passion when it comes to making a positive difference in society, and when it comes to see themselves as activists and leaders for social, racial and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Board of School Directors encourages and facilitates in a viewpoint-neutral manner all student civic engagement as long as such activities do not foster hatred and animus towards and amongst our students, their families, and our community; and

WHEREAS, Civic engagement includes a broad scope of non-partisan civic activities including student clubs, debates, forums, voter registration, voting, rallies, marches; and

WHEREAS, In the past several years many MPS students have independently engaged in such non-partisan activities including, but not limited to, marches and rallies by students participating in the annual Voce’s and YES May Day marches advocating for immigrant and worker rights, Black Lives Matter marches by students from North Division, anti-violence rallies at Rufus King High School and Climate Justice protests at Milwaukee School of Languages and;

WHEREAS, Voces de la Frontera and their youth group Youth Empowered in the Struggle have been leaders in some of the largest “Day without Latinxs and Immigrant Rights” marches in the country, establishing the May 1<sup>st</sup> marches as a family tradition in Milwaukee that brings out students and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Consistent with the district’s safe haven policy protecting undocumented students and their families (see Resolution 1617R-007, adopted December 2017), the Milwaukee Board of School Directors recognizes these important examples of civic engagement and publicly thanks those students, student leaders and the adults in schools who are club advisors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors directs administration and staff to support students and their advisors to facilitate their participation in the “Day without Latinxs and Immigrant Rights” if students’ parents and/or guardians sign a permission slip approving their student’s participation, with the understanding that such students will receive an excused absence; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all school-based administrators receive guidance from the administration in a timely way so that any misunderstandings can be worked out well in advance.

*March 15, 2023*