

Elk Grove Unified School District
Resolution No. 90, 2022-23
Student Bill of Rights

WHEREAS pursuant to Elk Grove Unified School District (“EGUSD”) Board Policies, the mission of creating an equitable education system is prevalent in all EGUSD decisions; and

WHEREAS students are vital and important stakeholders to any education system, and strong student engagement and participation are crucial to the success of EGUSD; and

WHEREAS it is integral for school districts to protect the interests of all students, and to take steps to ensure that students are equipped and prepared to continue their education even in challenging and adaptive circumstances; and

WHEREAS EGUSD is dedicated to addressing any inequities impacting EGUSD students; and

WHEREAS in an effort to cultivate student agency and recognition of the interests, rights, and potential of students, California school boards should strongly consider adoption of a localized student “bill of rights” that recognizes the role and partnership of students with the districts they are enrolled in, as partners in the education they receive; and

WHEREAS student voice in local education policy is important for the successful development and implementation of such policy, and encouraging students to speak out against injustices in their community best ensures accurate representation of all students, including in educational process and policies necessary to address such injustices; and

WHEREAS student-led organizations support adopting a student “bill of rights”; and

WHEREAS EGUSD believes that a student bill of rights promotes greater equity and responsibility on all school campuses, and further supports protection of the rights and liberties of all students regardless of their respective backgrounds; and

WHEREAS the purpose of a student bill of rights is to provide information that makes it easier for students to know and understand about the rights afforded to them under state and federal law and EGUSD policy; and

WHEREAS EGUSD students can utilize a student bill of rights to advocate for themselves and others, and to engage school staff and students in conversations about how to improve their school experiences; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the adoption of an EGUSD student “bill of rights” is important for the overarching success of EGUSD and its students; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that EGUSD resolves, as derived from, framed, and informed by applicable state and federal law, and EGUSD policy, and intended to be

consistent with applicable laws and EGUSD policy, while not serving as a legally binding document beyond that which EGUSD policy already provides for, to adopt the following in the best interest and to support of EGUSD students, and the successful achievement of EGUSD's above-noted mission:

1. This EGUSD Student Bill of Rights adopted pursuant to this Resolution shall be included in the EGUSD Parent and Student Handbook.
2. A council of students, in partnership with the Student Equity Councils at EGUSD school sites and the Educational Equity Department, shall be convened annually by the student Board member to review the Student Bill of Rights to consider potential revisions. Any revisions to the Student Bill of Rights herein must be approved by the District's Governing Board.
3. The EGUSD Student Bill of Rights is adopted as follows:
 - a. All students have the right to access a fair and equitable education that is free from discrimination.
 - b. All students have the right to freedom of speech and expression.
 - c. All students have the right to fair and equitable access to the resources and supplies necessary to succeed in their education.
 - d. All students have the right to be consistently notified and reminded of the existing rules in their school and be granted an opportunity to address perceived unfair treatment.
 - e. All students have the right to be taught curriculum from an equitable, diverse, and culturally responsive perspective.
 - f. All students have the right to be taught by qualified, committed, and professional educators with a goal of preparing them for all tertiary education opportunities.
 - g. All students have the right to privacy on their school campus and confidentiality in sensitive matters.
 - h. All students have the right to full protection and safety, where the ability to report incidents of concern is made readily available and responded to in a timely manner.
 - i. All students have the right to request restorative practices as a means of redressing perceived student harm.
 - j. All students have the right to access resources and information that aid their health, nutrition, and personal wellbeing.

k. All students have the right to have access to school counselors or other wellness providers who are fully capable of handling a student's education experience holistically to fulfill both their personal and academic needs.

If any student feels as though their rights are not being upheld, they should: (1) discuss with the individual or individuals involved regarding how the student feels their rights are not being upheld, the impact it is having on them, and how those involved can work together to reach resolution; (2) absent resolution through step 1, the student may reach out to their school's Student Equity Council, Vice Principal, or another staff member, or utilize their school's Incident Reporting System via their school's website, to seek resolution with final decisions being confirmed by the principal; and (3) absent resolution at step 2, the student may contact the EGUSD Student Board Member through the district's website at egusd.net or the Educational Equity Department at EdEquity@egusd.net, to seek resolution.

School site administration, staff and District officials should aim to work closely with all students to ensure that the rights outlined in this resolution are upheld.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Elk Grove Unified School District Governing Board on this 13th day of June 2023, by the following vote:

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSENT _____

ABSTAIN _____

Approved:

Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Board President

Gina Jamerson, Board Clerk