

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2023-24

CLIMATE LITERACY

WHEREAS, “The warming trend observed over the past century can only be explained by the effects that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs), have had on the climate”¹

WHEREAS, damage to the environment is evident at the current 1°C worldwide average increase portending much worse effects as temperatures rise further;

WHEREAS, CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses remain in the atmosphere for decades, thus committing humankind to future warming from prior emissions and impacts which today’s children and youth as adults will have to address;

WHEREAS, time is of the essence and the actions taken from now to 2030 will have profound repercussions for today’s children and youth as adults and future generations;

WHEREAS, environmental education has long been encouraged in California schools as exemplified by state law AB 1548, the principles of which have been included in new standards and textbooks², and state law SB 720 passed in 2018 which promotes environmental literacy;

WHEREAS, Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) seeks to educate and empower PUSD students to be current and future leaders within the United States and in the world and caretakers of the planet;

WHEREAS, the City of Piedmont is committed to sustainability and addressing climate change as demonstrated by the Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted in 2010 and CAP 2.0 adopted in 2018, which set the goal of reducing GHG emissions to 40% of 2005 levels by 2030, and to 80% by 2050³;

WHEREAS, the Piedmont City Council unanimously adopted residential Reach Codes that require electrification and energy efficiency measures to meet the City’s CAP goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and natural gas usage in residential buildings⁴.

¹ Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II (2018), <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/1/>

² [History and Development of the Education and the Environment Initiative \(EEI\) Curriculum](#); [Bill Text - SB-720 Environmental education: environmental principles and concepts](#).

³ [Climate Action Plan - City of Piedmont](#)

WHEREAS, informed PUSD students are already showing leadership in climate literacy work, through activities including the PHS/MHS Green Club & its successful fundraising of \$60K towards solar panels on the PHS STEAM building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Piedmont Unified school district:

- 1) Agrees it is time to define what it means to educate students for a future with climate change.
- 2) Commits to graduating students who have a broad knowledge of climate change science and solutions.
- 3) Commits to bringing the administration, faculty, students, and families together to support a comprehensive climate change literacy program.
- 4) Commits to joining a group of California educators who pledge to share ideas and resources, and assist with mobilizing the education community to address climate matters throughout all levels of state educational leadership.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 8th day of May by the Board of Trustees of the Piedmont Unified School District.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent

Dated: _____, 2024

Veronica Anderson Thigpen, President
Board of Education
Piedmont Unified School District

Jennifer Hawn, Ed.D., Secretary

Board of Education

Piedmont Unified School District