

Political Activities Policy

School personnel, with the responsibility of significant influence over learners, share in the obligation to develop political and civic concepts in the students of the District. Use of instructional activities along with related materials and resources aligned to the approved curriculum can lead to the development of these concepts.

Age appropriate political and civic instructional activities presented with expertise, sensitivity, and understanding, such as mock elections, student discussions and debates, essay and report writing, oral and media presentations, and other similar activities, politically balanced and free from the bias of personnel, are of assistance in promoting responsible student citizenship. Speeches by elected officials to students on non-partisan issues or speeches by elected officials addressing both sides of a political issue can add to civic understandings.

Conversely, while at work or on school property, school personnel shall not make statements on behalf of the school district, shall not interfere with the political or civic rights of a colleague, shall not use district resources to promote or oppose a political candidate or political view, and shall not circulate literature, post signs, wear buttons or utilize similar activities to promote or oppose a political candidate or political view. School (excluding student publications created with District resources to the extent required by law) publications shall not provide information promoting or opposing a political party, candidate, or political view. The above does not apply to activities on Election Day when schools are closed, to the actions of school personnel off school property before or after the work day, to activities that occur in the teachers' room and to the distribution of materials in teacher mailboxes, and to the publication of factual information and the position of the School Committee regarding the school budget and the issuance of bonds.

The School Committee shall be prohibited from appropriating funds or resources to promote or oppose a political candidate.

Adopted and Effective 3-15-18; Revised and Effective 10-27-20