

Political Activity (Organized) During School Hours or at School Functions

Classroom Activities

A democratic society depends upon informed, intelligent and responsible citizens. Professional educators have a unique responsibility in preparing students for such citizenship. The District's curriculum may call for students, consistent with their level of maturity, to be conversant with local, state and national issues and persons.

Politics, in general, may be highly volatile in nature, however. Educators and parents may profess sharply divergent political ideologies. Students at school are a captive audience, and students may be highly impressionable. Therefore, in presenting political issues, teachers must remain objective and impartial, both personally and as members of an organized labor group. All presentations must be oriented to the maturity level of the students and the mores of the community. The classroom must never be used to expound personal political philosophy.

Political debates by office holders and/or candidates must be approved by the Principal. If approval is given for candidates to speak, all candidates for a particular office must be invited. Classroom political activities, such as the registration of new voters, conducting straw voting, holding mock elections, and other efforts to inform students of election issues, must be approved by the Principal in advance.

Candidates for political office shall not be permitted to address the students at school during the 15-day period immediately preceding the day of the election in which they are candidates.

Employee Activities

All District employee activities, including classroom activities, must conform with Public Act 169, which prohibits all partisan or nonpartisan political activity by public employees during working hours. Employees may not engage in political activities on behalf of a candidate or issue in connection with partisan or non-partisan elections during the school day, or at school functions. Violation of this prohibition will result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

Nothing in these procedures is meant to restrict the right of an individual or group during non-school time to selectively support candidates or issues. Also, organized political action is sometimes required for support of public education. The Board may, from time to time, authorize and sponsor efforts to encourage community support for public education.