Political Activities of School Employees

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) recognizes the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, the Board recognizes that school property and school time are paid for by all the people of the Bethany Public School District (District), and should not be used for partisan political purposes, except as provided for in policies pertaining to the use of school facilities by civic and political organizations.

Prohibited activities include the posting of political circulars or petitions, collection or solicitation of campaign funds, solicitations for campaign workers, the use of students in writing or addressing campaign materials, and the distribution of campaign materials to students on District property or during school time in any manner which would indicate that a District employee is using a position in the District to further personal partisan views on candidates for public office or questions of public property. Teachers and other District employees will not attempt to influence students concerning political party affiliations and will not praise or denigrate any particular political party.

Nothing in this policy will be interpreted as prohibiting teachers from conducting appropriate activities that encourage students to become involved in the political processes of the party of the students' choice or as independents; nor does it prohibit the use of political figures as resource persons in the classrooms.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 7–421

Connecticut General Statutes § 7-421b

Connecticut General Statutes § 9-369b

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-156e

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-239

Connecticut General Statutes § 31-51q

Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
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