

Board of Trustees Douglas County School District

STAFF

Political Activities

The Board of Trustees recognizes the rights of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, the Board also recognizes that school property and school time should not be used for partisan political purposes, except as provided for in policies pertaining to the use of school buildings by civic and political organizations.

With approval from the Superintendent or designee, elected or appointed local, state, or federal officials who are acting in their official capacity may address students and employees on matters relevant to the educational environment, or of interest to the audience.

School district employees must, with all other citizens, share the responsibility for the development of a sound public body and assume full political and citizenship responsibilities. With that goal in mind, the following guidance has been established for all employees:

Employees should

1. Address political topics as impartially and objectively as possible.
2. Not allow personal biases to intrude or interfere with professional judgment.
3. Handle political issues in a manner relevant to the content of the course and appropriate to the knowledge and maturity of the students.
4. Inform the principal/designee when there is a doubt about the impact of a political topic in planned instruction.
5. Encourage critical thinking by offering multiple perspectives of the issue(s) under discussion, gathering information, considering implications and consequences of varying viewpoints, checking for assumptions, and using questions to guide ideas and clarify thinking.
6. Act consistent with district policy, administrative regulations, and school administration guidance on politics and political policy in

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the educational environment. Employees are responsible for ensuring guest speakers adhere to the aforementioned expectations.

Employees should not

1. Provide or make any representations that their personal views represent the views of the Douglas County School District. Instead, employees will take adequate precautions to distinguish between personal and instructional views;
2. While engaged in the education of students, present social and political theories as fact;
3. Interfere with another person's exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities while on school district property or during school-sponsored events, unless such activity is inconsistent with applicable policy, regulation, or law; or,
4. Use district privileges, resources, or working time to promote political candidates or partisan political activities.

Nothing in this Policy shall be interpreted as prohibiting the following:

1. Conducting appropriate activities that encourage students to become involved in the political processes of the party of the students' choice, or as a non-partisan.
2. Circulation of literature pertaining to bond referenda for school purposes.
3. Utilization of district mail services, email, and bulletin boards for organizational material by collective bargaining agents and their membership, in accordance with NRS Chapter 288 and current collective bargaining agreements.

Reference:

Date Adopted: 09/13/2022
Date Revised: 07/16/2025