

## Administrative Regulation

Campaigning and Political Activity on School Grounds

Any campaign activities occurring on District property must follow the procedures and practices outlined in the District's policies, regulations, and supplemental guidance. The District's rules and regulations are distributed and reinforced by guidance memorandum issued by the Superintendent's office.

The District's established reasonable rules and regulations regarding political activities on District property include, but are not limited to:

- District staff may not use public funds, services, supplies or equipment for conventional campaign activities such as: bumper stickers, mass media advertising, billboards or posters, and door-to-door canvassing. This means District computers, printers, bulletin boards, mailboxes, and other resources may not be used to support or challenge of a candidate.
- While staff may use personal social media accounts to express political opinions or support, staff may not post during work hours, using work supplies, or from "official" school or work accounts such that a reasonable individual may interpret the show of support or dissent as from the District and not representing the individual employee's viewpoint.
- The District will not arrange or permit *any* site visits by political candidates. Incumbent Board members should not make school site visits during the active campaign season, unless visits are part of a regular Board function. (See Ed. Code, § § 7055(b) and 7058.) Candidates and Board members seeking to use District property must follow District procedures to request facilities pursuant to the Civic Center Act.
- As long as an activity is not *disruptive* to the campus or the school activity, a private citizen (or staff member acting as such) may make political statements and distribute campaign materials near (but not on) district facilities, campuses or at Board meetings. Such distribution is not permitted inside classrooms or other areas where school activities (such as Back-to-School Night) are being conducted. Typically, the placing of signs of support in a vehicle when parked on school property is permitted. Signs must not be obscene, offensive, or incite violence or disruption and should not be situated in a manner which allows students to view the political positions or candidates supported.
- No political activities are permitted during work time and this includes the wearing of, or posting of, political messages. However, teachers have the right to discuss with fellow staff issues of public concern in faculty rooms, lunch rooms, and during duty free periods. Such conversations may not cause a disruption in the educational environment for students. However, teachers may wear political apparel (e.g., buttons, shirts) during activities that do not involve an instructional setting for students (e.g., prep periods, back to school night, Board Meeting).

- Despite the prohibitions above, employees are permitted, absent special circumstances, to wear union buttons or insignia in the classroom. Employees may be prohibited from wearing political buttons, including those provided by the union, when engaged in instructional activities.
- At a regular Board meeting, staff may address the Board on any item “of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body’s consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the [Board].” While candidates for office and the outcome of a Board election are “of interest to the public,” those items are not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Thus, Board meetings are not opened to campaigning.
- Employees are reminded that District email accounts are for District business use only, and the addresses should not be provided to people or organizations likely to generate non-business email traffic. Further, District mailboxes are not to be used to distribute of candidate endorsement.

Specific, more restrictive rules apply on Election Day at polling locations. If your school is a polling place, you may request additional guidance to comply with these rules.

Issues regarding violations of this administrative regulation will be resolved by the principal in consultation with the designated assistant superintendent.

Approved: October 19, 2020

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