

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes the right of students and staff to engage in political activity. The Board believes that one purpose of education is to prepare students for constructive participation in a democratic, pluralistic society.

Activities that promote the development of judgment, a capacity to discern the difference between fact and opinion, and the ability to weigh arguments, slogans, and appeals will be approved in accordance with established regulations.

However, district resources, including materials, equipment, and staff time, may not be used for political purposes, including advocacy for or against a candidate or ballot issue. Facilities may be rented for political purposes under the same conditions as those available to the general public. Political materials may be distributed on school property and/or at school events under the conditions specified for the distribution of any non-school materials. All viewpoints shall have the same opportunity for use of facilities or distribution of materials.

During school hours or when representing the district in an official capacity, employees of the school district shall not be permitted to distribute political or campaign materials, endorsements on behalf of candidates, or to endorse or oppose political or campaign candidates or ballot issues.

Instructors may use political literature in their classes as a means of instruction, and political literature may be distributed by visiting candidates at the time of their appearance on school property.

The school or district may provide information about a pending ballot issue, but may not advocate for its passage or defeat.

Questions about specific cases should be directed to the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Finance Disclosure Board, Des Moines, phone 515-281-4028, fax 515-281-3701, or online at www.iowa.gov/ethics.

Legal Ref.: Iowa Code §§ 55, 279.8; (2013).

Cross Ref.: 402.6 Organizations
900.5 Distribution of Materials

ADOPTED: 2/25/80
1/9/84
2/11/91
5/13/02
2/28/05
9/28/09

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