STAFF INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Employees may exercise the rights and privileges of any citizen in matters of a political nature consistent with the following restrictions:

A. No school employee shall, (1) in the presence of any student, and (2) during hours for which pay is received or while the employee is otherwise acting within the scope of their employment, engage in any activity for the solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action. When not engaged in the performance of their duties (e.g., during designated break periods) and when no students are present, employees who are at a work location may engage in private conversations with non-students or in other personal activities that address, for example, political topics.

B. During established hours of employment or while an employee is engaged in his/her official duties, no employee or other person may solicit or receive from any employee any contribution or service for any political purpose, where a "political purpose" includes an act done for the purpose of influencing the election or nomination for election of a person to office. Furthermore, no person may enter any District building, office or facility in order to request, make or receive a contribution for a political purpose.

C. No school employee shall use in any way the classrooms, buildings, or pupils for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action. This provision does not apply to use of District facilities by employees for events or activities that are not within their scope of employment and that are held pursuant to the District's policies regarding facilities use by third parties.

D. No school employee shall make use of school equipment or materials for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action.

This policy does not apply to the provision of information by school employees in connection with any election, referendum or legislation where authorized by the School Board or District Administrator and where consistent with legal limitations on the use of public funds and school district resources.

Board Approved 3.7.2012

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 6.76 Time off for voting
Section 11.36 Political solicitations Involving public officials and employees restricted
Section 12.07 Election restrictions on employers
Section 19.59 Code of ethics for local government officials, employees and candidates

Adoption Date: March 7, 2012