

<b>FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Reg. No. 200-38</b>
<b>Subject:</b> <b>POLITICAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Date of Issue:</b> <b>11/15/90</b>
<b>Preparing Office:</b> <b>Office of the Superintendent</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>11/9/05</b>

I. Policy 314

The board affirms the principle that active participation is required by the individual citizen in our democratic form of government. To the extent allowable by law, teachers as citizens have the right and responsibility to vote, serve on juries, act as election judges, discuss political issues, serve the political party of their choice as party worker, delegate or official, campaign for candidates to public office, and campaign for and serve in public office.

Teachers also have a responsibility to school students not to impose partisan political views in the classroom or to exploit students by the use of political materials. Political activities of teachers, including wearing political buttons, must be conducted outside of school hours and off school premises.

II. Procedures

The Frederick County Public School system recognizes the value of active participation, and the corresponding responsibility of equity and balance in presentation, to stimulate critical and thoughtful analysis by our students.

A. Political Campaign Activities

1. A person may not campaign, or solicit support for a political candidate, on school property during school hours or during a school-sponsored activity.
2. Special programs where each candidate for an office is given an equitable opportunity to present his/her candidacy may be established with the approval of the Associate Superintendent of School Administration and School Improvement.
3. Instructional activities where issues or political events are discussed as part of a broad-based instructional format are permitted.
4. Except for teachers, individuals may engage in the political activity of wearing a button expressing personal support of a particular candidate provided it does not cause a disruption to the educational environment.
5. Campaign literature or other information that endorses or advocates a candidacy may not be distributed on school property during school hours or during a school-sponsored activity.

B. Voter Registration Activities

1. Voter registration materials must be approved by the Associate Superintendent of School Administration and School Improvement; voter registration materials containing information advocating a candidate or identifying a particular candidate may not be distributed on school property during school hours or a school-sponsored activity.
2. In years with two elections (primary and general), two voter registration drives may be proposed; at least one of the drives must be sponsored by the League of Women Voters.
3. Any partisan group (representing a political party or private interest) that may want to sponsor a drive must solicit the participation of others; when a drive is initiated by any partisan group (representing a political party or private interest), all parties will be invited to send representatives as registrars; the registrars will be non-partisan, not currently holding public office as an elected official in national, state, or local government; if registrars of assorted parties are not available, the school visit will be canceled by any of the concerned individuals.
4. Any group that may want to sponsor a drive must submit a schedule of dates, schools, times, and persons attending to the Associate Superintendent of School Administration and School Improvement for prior written approval.
5. Any group that may want to sponsor a drive must allow the board of education to handle announcements, press release statements, etc., through the Associate Superintendent of School Administration and School Improvement; principals and schools will not be directly contacted.

Approved:

*original signed by*

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Linda D. Burgee  
Superintendent