

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE 381 - POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM**

#### **A. Activities permitted:**

1. Presentations by governmental office holders which promote student learning and the democratic process.
2. Political discourse/discussion that provides an opportunity for student engagement in the democratic process.

#### **B. Activities of individual employees permitted:**

1. Making voluntary contributions for political purposes.
2. Expressing opinions regarding political candidates as an individual/union privately and/or publicly except as limited in Section C.
3. Parking a motor vehicle bearing a partisan political sticker or sign on school property and/or wearing a partisan political button on school property provided that no disruption to the educational environment occurs.
4. Being a member of a political party and participating in party affairs.
5. Soliciting votes in support of/in opposition to a partisan candidate for public office or political party except as limited in Section C.
6. Endorsing or opposing a partisan candidate for public office or political party except as limited in Section C.
7. The posting of political propaganda in classrooms if deemed to be part of the curriculum and the propaganda is not disruptive or espousing one political agenda over another.

#### **C. Activities of individual employees not permitted:**

1. Engaging in partisan political activities (i.e., campaigning, holding a rally) with students while on school property or during work hours.
2. Engaging in political activity outside of work hours to such an extent that efficiency during work hours is impaired or results in unauthorized absences.
3. Directly or indirectly soliciting from students votes or anything of value in support of/in opposition to a partisan candidate for public office or political party while on school property or during work hours.

4. Engaging students while on school property or during work hours in any form of partisan political activity calculated to favor or improve the chances of any political party or partisan candidate.
5. Using school district facilities (during school hours), materials, supplies, or equipment in connection with partisan political activity.
6. Use of the district's internal mail system or e-mail system (including "stuffing" staff mailboxes) for political material is prohibited, although political material sent through U.S. mail to personnel at their district address will be delivered.

D. Activities required:

1. Where discussions with students about political candidates and/or platforms occur as a part of the instructional program, teachers must present material in a balanced manner so as to afford students the opportunity to do their own thinking and decision making.

ADOPTION DATE: December 14, 2009

REVISION DATE(S): June 21, 2023

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CROSS-REFERENCE: Policy 381 Political Activities in the Classroom

LEGAL REFERENCE: