

Administrative Regulations

Community Relations

Political Activities of School Employees

Political Materials and/or Engagement as Part of the Instructional Program

Teachers shall strive to promote tolerance for the opinions of others and respect for the right of all individuals to hold and express differing opinions.

- A. A teacher shall not use professional interaction with students to further his/her own political aims or views or those of any other individual or group.
- B. Teachers may use political materials as part of the instructional program, provided the material is germane to the instructional objectives of the course and/or curriculum. The course's overall presentation of political materials, issues, or expression of the views must represent a balance of perspectives.
- C. During work hours, employees and those acting on behalf of FPS should not wear campaign buttons, T Shirts, hats or other items designed to influence the outcome of an election, nor should they display such items in their workplaces unless the course content warrants the study of contrasting and comparing various campaign and election memorabilia.
- D. Students have the legal right to express their political views, wear campaign buttons, campaign t-shirts, or overtly display memorabilia as long as the administration deems that the activity is not causing a major disruption to the educational environment in the classroom or outside the classroom.
- E. Teachers shall be responsible for providing students with the opportunity to investigate various sides of the topics presented in their courses, particularly in relation to controversial subjects, within such limits as may be imposed by relevance to the course, the maturity level and intellectual ability of the students, and the time available.
- F. Teachers shall permit freedom of expression on those topics that are matters of opinion so that students may weigh alternative views and make up their own minds. As part of best instructional practice to develop well-reasoned arguments students shall be encouraged to examine, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize the information available to them before drawing conclusions in order to develop as fully as possible their capacity for rational judgment.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees.
7-421b Limitation on restriction of political rights of municipal employees.
10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.

June 13, 2018