

AP 1400: Activity During Election Periods

Elections are key elements in the democratic process, providing suitable subjects for educational attention. However, since misunderstandings, conflicts, and claims of bias can also occur during an election period, guidelines for staff are important.

While an "election period" may formally be considered the time following an election announcement, or the period following the deadline for nominations in a local election, for purposes of this administrative procedure, it may be more broadly defined as the weeks or months preceding the election.

In general, district activity is to proceed in as normal a manner as possible during an election period, with staff continuing to carry out their duties with integrity and responsibility. However, caution is required to ensure that staff will not be accused of political partiality in carrying out their duties, nor trustees of obtaining unfair political advantage in local elections.

Procedures

1. Employees of the district are not permitted to participate in campaign activity during their normal working hours.
2. Staff may inform students about, and carry on discussions about, election processes and issues. Under no circumstances are efforts to be made by staff to indoctrinate students with a particular political view nor to engage them in campaign activities.
3. Caution is to be exercised regarding public relations activities or controversial issues which could become part of the election campaign.
4. Requests for staff to provide information for campaign purposes are to be referred to the Superintendent's Office and are restricted to information available to all members of the public or other candidates. The materials made available to one candidate will be given to all candidates.