

Q&A for Participation in Political Campaigns and for Distribution of Campaign Materials

Can campaign materials/flyers be sent home with students on those days assigned for distribution of community flyers under Policy CNA: *Informational Materials and Announcements*?

No. Informational materials and announcements distributed under CNA are to be from non-profit community organizations and campaigns are not non-profit.

If a professional or support services employee wants to work on a campaign on a work day, what is the appropriate leave?

A professional or supporting services employee may use personal or annual leave to work on a campaign. If the employee does not have any personal or annual leave available, an unpaid leave of absence may be arranged. All leave is subject to the normal approval process.

Can campaign signs be posted on school grounds?

No, except when used as a polling place in accordance with election laws and should be removed in accordance with those laws as well.

Can campaign signs be posted inside a school?

No, except when related to the instructional program. Campaign signs should not be posted inside the school building for political reasons. Teachers may use campaign signs in furtherance of instructional objectives but the presentation must be fair and balanced.

Can a teacher display campaign posters, bumper stickers and buttons in a classroom if a balanced view is presented?

Yes, if related to an instructional objective of the course.

Can campaign flyers be distributed on school grounds?

Campaign flyers may not be distributed in classrooms, the media center or other instructional spaces during class time (unless related to instructional program) or at times that are disruptive to school operations as determined by the principal.

It is preferred that campaign flyers, like other community flyers, be made available to interested persons on bulletin boards, wall space or table designated for display of other community flyers, if any.

Students may be permitted to hand out campaign flyers at times that are not disruptive (for example, before the school day, at the end of the school day, during lunch) and at designated locations (for example, entrance foyer, cafeteria, a designated hallway) at the discretion of the principal.

Distribution of campaign flyers by employees during work hours is prohibited.

Can a public official who is a candidate for public office speak in a classroom or assembly during the school day?

If a class or school sponsored forum, such as an assembly, invites a candidate to speak during the school day, the teacher/ sponsor must ensure that there is equal opportunity given to the opposing party. This requirement does not apply if the public official is invited because of the office they occupy rather than as a candidate for public office.

Can a candidate speak during a school extra-curricular event?

Yes. Students may invite a candidate to address interested students at an extra-curricular event.

Can students wear a button for a candidate?

Yes, unless, in the opinion of the principal, the message poses a danger of disruption to the educational environment.

Can a teacher post campaign information on the school's private mail folder?

The school's private mail folder is provided for educational purposes, in accordance with IGT-RA, *User Responsibilities for Computer Systems, Electronic Information, and Network Security*. Campaign information posted for political purposes is inconsistent with proper use.

Can a teacher discuss candidates or political issues with students in class and give his/her personal opinion?

If the candidates or political issues are related to the instructional objectives of the course that the teacher is teaching, then these topics are appropriate for discussion and the teacher may express his or her opinions so long as the total discussion is balanced and fair.

Are teachers allowed to express their opinion regarding candidates to students outside of class?

Teachers may not use their position to promote or oppose a candidate. However, teachers and other staff, like any citizen, may express their opinion on their own time and/or in the community.

Can students receive community service hours for working on a campaign?

Yes, student service learning hours may be earned for working on a campaign. Student service learning requirements apply.

Can the students hold a mock election where students vote?

Yes, if approved by the principal as an educational activity.

Can the school newspaper conduct surveys regarding support for political candidates and publish results?

If a student activity, such as a survey, is not disruptive and otherwise meets applicable requirements for that activity, then it would be permissible.

Can students hold a mock debate?

Students might participate in a mock debate as part of a class where that is germane to the instructional objectives or as part of an extra-curricular club activity.

Can a candidate hold events at a school?

Using schools for community events, including political events, is scheduled through the Interagency Coordinating Board (ICB).