

POLITICAL ELECTIONEERING

Background

The political election process in Alberta and Canada normally occurs every four to five (4 to 5) years. Schools are sometimes subject to solicitations from politicians and aspiring politicians, or rentals for political events

Procedures

1. Campaigning in Division schools by individual candidates or parties for municipal, school board, provincial, or federal elections is prohibited except that:
 - 1.1 Principals may organize all-candidate forums or assemblies for educational purposes, provided the attendance is by invitation and voluntary and all parties are given equal opportunity; and
 - 1.2 School space may be rented after hours by a candidate or party on a commercial use basis.
 - 1.3 Political candidates and/or their representatives shall not have access during instructional hours to classrooms, assemblies, or student gatherings for the purpose of soliciting support.
 - 1.4 Any guest appearance by an elected official or candidate must be school-initiated, curriculum-linked, and presented in a balanced manner.
2. The posting or distribution of campaign materials associated with elections on lands or within buildings owned by the Division is prohibited, except that campaign materials may be:
 - 2.1 Posted and distributed in that portion of a school rented for a campaign meeting or being used for an all-candidates forum; however, all political materials must be removed from school premises at the end of any such meeting.
 - 2.2 Used as classroom teaching resources on the condition that support for an individual candidate or political party is not solicited; and
 - 2.3 Posted regarding school board elections as directed by the Board.
 - 2.4 Campaign materials may not be left in common areas (hallways, foyers, counters), placed in lockers or student mailboxes, or included in newsletters or school-to-home communication channels.
3. Political campaign materials and political literature in general may not be distributed through the school or sent home to parents although they may be used directly with those students attending meetings described in clause 1.
 - 3.1 School newsletters, websites and social media platforms shall not be used to promote or oppose any candidate, party, or political position, except for neutral information about election logistics.

4. Staff Political Neutrality and Use of Division Resources
 - 4.1 Division employees shall not use their position or Division resources including email, school websites, photocopiers, learning platforms, or social media to advocate for or against any candidate or political party.
5. The principal shall report to the Superintendent any unusual circumstances that may originate from these procedures.
 - 5.1 The principal shall ensure that all staff are advised of these procedures and their responsibilities during election periods.
6. The Superintendent may be requested to rule on extraordinary requests within the parameters of this Administrative Procedure. Any such occurrence will be reported to the Board as information.
 - 6.1 Extraordinary requests shall be routed through the Secretary Treasurer, prior to Superintendent review.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/NOV 2019/FEB 2026

Reference: *Education Act* s. 33, 52, 53, 197, 222, 256
Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board
Board Policy 4 - Trustee Code of Conduct
Board Policy 12 - Role of the Superintendent
Administrative Procedure 140 - Responsible Technology Use
Administrative Procedure 146 - Responsible Use of Social Media
Administrative Procedure 153 - Advertising and Distribution of Materials in Schools
Administrative Procedure 405 - Employee Code of Conduct
Administrative Procedure 550 - Community Use of School Facilities