

Policy Code: 7720 Employee Political and Community Activities

The board encourages participation in community activities by school personnel, not only to fulfill general citizen responsibilities, but also as an effective method for increasing general public awareness of the school system and for promoting a progressive community spirit among its patrons. The board will limit or discourage participation in community activities, including political activities and public speaking, only if such participation could cause either considerable interference with the activities of the school district or substantial interference with the employee's ability to function effectively in the school district.

PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The employee's right of citizenship involving registering, discussing political issues, voting, campaigning for candidates or issues, running for or serving in public office, and participating on a committee or board which seeks to serve the welfare of the community, will not be infringed upon due to employment in the school district.

These political activities will not:

1. take place during school time;
2. involve school monies or materials;
3. involve the posting of promotional materials on school grounds except as provided by the Board of Elections; or
4. make use of an official school position to encourage or to coerce students or other employees of the district to support in any way a political party, candidate or issue.

School employees engaging in political activity will make it clear that they are speaking and acting as individuals and that they do not represent the school district or the views of the board.

This policy should not be construed as prohibiting the impartial study and discussion of political or other controversial issues in the classroom setting.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#)(18)

Cross References:

Adopted:

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools