

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: KEA-RA,
Responsible Office: Superintendent of Schools
Related Sources: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-108; *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Election Law Article, §13-207-208, §13-401

Political Campaigns and Political Materials

A. PURPOSE

To recognize the participation of students and employees in political campaigns and issues in accordance with the state constitution and election laws (see MCPS Exhibit KEA-EC: *Political Committees, Campaign Materials, and Advertising [State Law]*) regarding participation in political campaigns, partisan election activities, and distribution of political or partisan materials.

B. ISSUE

The Montgomery County Board of Education recognizes the rights of students and employees to participate in political campaigns and issues; the constitutional rights of students and employees and the general public to distribute materials relating to their political views on school grounds; and the right of students to pursue an education conducted in a suitable academic environment free from disruption.

C. POSITION

1. The Board approves the participation of students in Grades 9-12 in political campaign activity during school hours with parental consent, approval of the principal or his/her designee, and at the request of the political candidate or organization.
2. Released time may be granted to students for such participation for a total of three school days per school year during the two-week period immediately prior to a primary or general election.
3. The Board approves the participation of employees in political campaigns and issues as set forth in Regulation KEA-RA: *Student and Employee Participation in Political Campaigns and Distribution of Political Materials* and Exhibit KEA-EC: *Political Committees, Campaign Materials, and Advertising (State Law)*

4. Printed materials advocating or opposing a candidate for public office or other political views may be distributed on school premises under certain conditions.

D. DESIRED OUTCOME

The outcome for this policy is to ensure that the employees and students of the Montgomery County Public Schools are well informed and guided in their activities regarding the requirements of state election laws and their participation in political campaigns, partisan election activities, and distribution of political or partisan materials.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. The Board directs the superintendent, in consultation with staff, to prepare implementing regulations regarding participation in political activities by employees and students and the time, place, and manner in which printed materials advocating or opposing a candidate for public office or other political views may be distributed on school premises.
2. The Board further directs the superintendent to develop a document incorporating this Board policy with the procedures for distribution to all schools, PTA's, appropriate organizations, individual citizens by request, and the supervisor of elections for distribution to political candidates.
3. The superintendent will develop procedures to implement and publicize this policy.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education's policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 398-72, June 13, 1972, amended by Resolution No. 902-79, October 22, 1979; amended by Resolution No. 371-94, May 23, 1994; amended by Resolution No. 543-07, November 13, 2007.