

1 Related Entries: KEA-RA, **KEA-EC**
2 Responsible Office: Superintendent of Schools
3 ~~Related Sources: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article,~~
4 ~~§7-108; Annotated Code of~~
5 ~~Maryland, Election Law Article, §13-207-208,~~
6 ~~§13-401~~

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9 **Civic Engagement**, Political Campaigns, and Political Materials

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12 A. PURPOSE

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14 To recognize the participation of **Montgomery County Public**
15 **Schools (MCPS)** students and employees in political campaigns
16 and issues in accordance with the ~~state~~**Maryland** constitution
17 and election laws ~~(see MCPS Exhibit KEA-EC: Political~~
18 ~~Committees, Campaign Materials, and Advertising [State Law])~~
19 regarding participation in political campaigns, partisan
20 election activities, and distribution of political or
21 partisan materials **as well as student participation in civic**
22 **engagement activities intended to be an active participant in**
23 **our democratic process.**

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25 B. ISSUE

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27 The Montgomery County Board of Education recognizes the
28 rights of **MCPS** students and employees to participate in

29 political campaigns, and issues; the constitutional rights of
30 students and employees and the general public to distribute
31 materials relating to their political views on school
32 grounds; **the interest of students to participate in civic**
33 **engagement activities;** and the right of students to pursue an
34 education conducted in a suitable academic environment free
35 from disruption.

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37 C. POSITION

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39 1. The Board approves the participation of students in
40 Grades 9-12 in political campaign activity during school
41 hours ~~during the two week period immediately prior to a~~
42 ~~primary or general election~~ at the request of the
43 political candidate or organization with parental
44 **written parent/guardian consent, and notification**
45 ~~to approval of~~ the principal ~~or his/her~~/designee, and.

46

47 2. The Board approves the participation of students in
48 Grades 9-12 in civic engagement activities with written
49 parent/guardian consent, ~~the agreement of a~~
50 ~~representative of the sponsoring organization, evidence~~
51 ~~of a sponsored/organized event or activity~~ and
52 ~~notification to approval of~~ the principal/designee to
53 ensure compliance with Board policies and MCPS
54 regulations as well as federal, state, and local laws
55 and regulations. **Schools should encourage students to**
56 **reflect on their learning as they participate in civic**

57 **engagement activities.**

58
59 3. Released time may be granted to students for **such**
60 participation **in political campaign activity and/or**
61 **civic engagement activities** for a total of three school
62 days per school year ~~during the two-week period~~
63 ~~immediately prior to a primary or general election.~~

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65 ~~2.4.~~ The Board approves the participation of employees in
66 political campaigns and issues as set forth in **MCPS**
67 Regulation KEA-RA~~:-~~, ~~Student and Employee Participation~~
68 ~~in Political Campaigns and Distribution of Political~~
69 **Campaign Materials** and **MCPS** Exhibit KEA-EC~~:-~~, ~~Political~~
70 ~~Committees,~~ ~~Campaign Materials,~~ ~~:~~ ~~and~~
71 ~~Advertising~~**Authority Line** (State Law)

72
73 ~~3.5.~~ Printed materials advocating or opposing a candidate for
74 public office or other political views may be
75 distributed on school premises under certain conditions.

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77 D. DESIRED OUTCOME

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79 The outcome for this policy is to ensure that the employees
80 and students of ~~the Montgomery County Public Schools~~**MCPS** are
81 well informed and guided in their activities regarding the
82 requirements of state election laws and their participation
83 in **civic engagement activities**, political campaigns, partisan
84 election activities, and distribution of political or

85 partisan materials.

86

87 E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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89 1. The Board directs the superintendent **of schools**, in
90 consultation with staff, to prepare implementing
91 regulations regarding participation in political
92 activities by employees and students, **civic engagement**
93 **activities by students**, and the time, place, and manner
94 in which printed materials advocating or opposing a
95 candidate for public office or other political views may
96 be distributed on school premises.

97

98 2. The Board further directs the superintendent **of schools**
99 to develop a document incorporating this Board policy
100 with the procedures for distribution to all schools,
101 **Parent Teacher Associations, Parent Teacher Staff**
102 **Associations, PTA's,**—appropriate organizations,
103 individual citizens by request, and the supervisor of
104 elections for distribution to political candidates.

105

106 3. The superintendent **of schools** will develop procedures to
107 implement and publicize this policy.

108

109 F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

110

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

113

114 Related Sources: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article,
115 §7-108; *Annotated Code of*
116 *Maryland*, Election Law Article, §13-207-208,
117 §13-401

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120 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No. 398-72, June 13, 1972,
121 amended by Resolution No. 902-79, October 22, 1979; amended by
122 Resolution No. 371-94, May 23, 1994; amended by Resolution No.
123 543-07, November 13, 2007; **amended by Resolution No.** .