

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 written** approval of
45 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, and**
51 **written approval of the principal/designee to ensure**
52 **compliance with Board policies and MCPS regulations as**
53 **well as federal, state, and local laws and regulations.**

54

55 3. Released time may be granted to students for such
56 participation for a total of three school days per school

57 ~~year during the two-week period immediately prior to a~~
58 ~~primary or general election.~~

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60 ~~2.4.~~ The Board approves the participation of employees in
61 political campaigns and issues as set forth in **MCPS**
62 Regulation KEA-RA~~:-~~, ~~Student and Employee Participation~~
63 ~~in Political Campaigns and Distribution of Political~~
64 ~~Campaign Materials~~ and **MCPS** Exhibit KEA-EC~~:-~~, ~~Political~~
65 ~~Committees,~~ ~~Campaign Materials,~~ ~~:~~ ~~and~~
66 ~~Advertising~~**Authority Line** (State Law)

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68 ~~3.5.~~ Printed materials advocating or opposing a candidate for
69 public office or other political views may be
70 distributed on school premises under certain conditions.

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72 D. DESIRED OUTCOME

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

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82 E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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84 1. The Board directs the superintendent **of schools**, in

85 consultation with staff, to prepare implementing
86 regulations regarding participation in political
87 activities by employees and students, **civic engagement**
88 **activities by students**, and the time, place, and manner
89 in which printed materials advocating or opposing a
90 candidate for public office or other political views may
91 be distributed on school premises.

- 92
- 93 2. The Board further directs the superintendent **of schools**
94 to develop a document incorporating this Board policy
95 with the procedures for distribution to all schools,
96 **Parent Teacher Associations, Parent Teacher Staff**
97 **Associations, PTA's,**—appropriate organizations,
98 individual citizens by request, and the supervisor of
99 elections for distribution to political candidates.

- 100
- 101 3. The superintendent **of schools** will develop procedures to
102 implement and publicize this policy.

103

104 F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

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

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109 Related Sources: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article,
110 §7-108; *Annotated Code of*
111 *Maryland*, Election Law Article, §13-207-208,
112 §13-401

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115 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No. 398-72, June 13, 1972,
116 amended by Resolution No. 902-79, October 22, 1979; amended by
117 Resolution No. 371-94, May 23, 1994; amended by Resolution No.
118 543-07, November 13, 2007; **amended by Resolution No.** .