

Administrative Procedure 153

POLITICAL ELECTIONEERING

Background

The political election process in Alberta and Canada normally occurs every three to five (3 to 5) years. Schools are often called upon to serve as centers for the electioneering activities during a campaign. Because schools hold a communication avenue to a wide adult audience, schools are sometimes subject to solicitations from aspiring politicians who wish to send materials home through the schools.

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 Schools may organize all-candidate forums for educational purposes.
 - 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 may speak to classes, groups, or assemblies, preferably during non-school hours, provided the attendance is by invitation and is voluntary, and provided all parties are given equal opportunity.
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.
 - 2.3 Posted regarding school board elections as directed by the Board.
3. Political campaign materials and political literature in general may not be distributed through the school or sent home to parents although it may be used directly with those students attending meetings described in procedure 1 above.
4. Political candidates and/or their representatives shall not have access, during school hours, to school classes or assemblies on behalf of their candidacy or on behalf of their party/constituency for the purpose of solicitation of support.

5. The Principal shall report to the Superintendent any unusual circumstances that may originate from these procedures.
6. The Superintendent may be requested to rule on extraordinary requests within the parameters of these administrative procedures. Any such occurrence will be reported to the Board as information.

Reference: Section 52, 53, 197, 222, 256 Education Act