

Attachment A

Model Policy Regarding Political Candidates and Public Officials

Purpose

To provide guidelines for school-based and non school-based administrators, teachers, and students for dealing with political campaigns in a school setting.

Philosophy

The preparation for effective citizenship requires that schools provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required to meet the challenges of self-government. Learning how to engage with the issues, candidates, and events that animate our political system can serve as the basis for powerful civic learning experiences for students. Schools should encourage students to participate in political campaigns, to meet with public officials, and to engage with issues in a way that develops critical thinking skills and fosters a respect for divergent opinions. Students should be encouraged to become full, active participants in the decision-making process.

Role of the Teacher

Teachers dedicated to preparing their students for effective and engaged citizenship are encouraged to:

- Provide activities and experiences that enable students to become informed participants in the political process.
- Expect that students will participate directly in the political process by supporting the candidate(s) and issue(s) of their choice.
- Introduce students to elected and appointed government officials.
- Require that students attend, or otherwise observe, public meetings of officials at the local, state, and national levels.
- Work with students to translate civic education into community engagement.

Political Candidates and Public Officials in the School Setting

All invitations must be approved by the principal, or the principal's designee.

If a candidate for office is to be invited to meet with students, the opportunity to meet students must be provided to other candidates running for that office in a fair and impartial fashion.

Students should be given the opportunity to question the candidate(s) or officeholder(s) in a

manner that is respectful of differing opinions.

Distribution and Display of Campaign Literature in the School Setting

The principal, or the principal's designee, shall determine the appropriate time, place, and manner for distribution and/or display of campaign literature in the school setting.