



## **Administrative Regulation 1311 POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS**

**Responsible Office:** Department of Government Affairs

### **PURPOSE**

The Superintendent adopts this regulation to establish the guidelines and protocols related to political activity on Washoe County School District (District) property including schools.

### **DEFINITIONS**

1. "Political advertising" means a communication supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to a public office or office of a political party, a political party, a public officer, or a measure being considered by the Nevada State Legislature or a local government body.

### **REGULATION**

1. Use of District resources for political activity is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Funds received by the District for educational purposes;
  - b. District mailing lists, to include the physical and/or e-mail addresses of District schools and offices, staff, and students/parents/guardians;
  - c. District-provided office supplies, computers, telephones, facsimile machines, copies, etc.;
  - d. District information technology, to include email and social media;
  - e. The District's sales tax exemption for purchases of goods and services;
  - f. Use of the District's name and/or logo on letterhead or any other materials for political activity; and
  - g. No officer or employee of the District shall knowingly expend or authorize the expenditure of District funds for the purpose of political advertising. Funds may be expended, however, for materials that describe the factual reasons for a measure but do not advocate the passage or defeat of such measure.
2. Prohibited materials include flyers, brochures or pamphlets which support, endorse, or oppose a candidate, ballot question, initiative or petition, any matter currently before any local government agency (such as the city and county commission or planning and zoning boards), or any material urging a certain position on any matter being considered by the Nevada State Legislature.

3. Signage that is displayed on District property that is, or becomes, political in nature must be removed or covered.
  - a. Political signage is defined as any sign indicating support for or opposition to an individual candidate, ballot question, or political matter, or reasonably resembling any signage of that nature as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee. This includes signs mounted on vehicles or trailers but does not include items such as bumper stickers applied to a personal vehicle.
  - b. Signage on District property must be approved by the school principal and adhere to all other policies and procedures of the District.
4. Use of District facilities shall be in accordance with applicable board policies and administrative regulations.
  - a. District facilities may not be used for closed political meetings.
  - b. Precinct meetings, party caucuses and elections arranged by the Washoe County Registrar of Voters are allowed.
  - c. Political events are permitted if held during non-instructional hours.

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

1. This regulation reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
  - a. Board Policy 1310, Political Activity on District Property Including Schools;
  - b. Board Policy 7120, Community Use of School Buildings and Facilities; and
  - c. Board Policy 1140, Distribution and Display of Informational Materials to Students and Staff.

### **REVISION HISTORY**

Date	Revision	Modification
9-9-1997	1.0	Adopted
10-11-2005	2.0	Revised
11/8/2013	2.1	Revised to include NRS 281A under Implementation Guidelines

3-13-2017	3.0	Revised: combined with administrative regulation 6144.2, Classroom Visitation of Political Candidates and/or Public Office Holders
08/05/2021	4.0	Revised: Clarify language, update protocols, use of District resources, prohibited materials and signage. Updated number from 1310 to 1311.