

Employment or volunteer service with the school system does not preclude an individual from participating in political activities, such as and voting, campaigning for candidates or issues, running for or serving in public office, attending political events, and contributing funds to partisan groups or candidates. These political activities must not: (1) take place during work hours; (2) involve school system funds or materials; or (3) make use of an official school position to encourage or to coerce students, employees, or others to support or oppose a political party, candidate, or issue.

As specified in policy 2220, Official School Spokesperson, the chairperson of the board or designee and the superintendent or designee are the official spokespersons for the school system. Employees, when exercising their rights as citizens, should take steps to ensure that their personal political activities or opinions are not erroneously attributed to the board or the school system.

This policy should not be construed as prohibiting the impartial study and discussion of political or other controversial issues in the classroom setting. However, employees must be mindful of their responsibility to deliver the curriculum of the school system and may not present their personal political views to students in the classroom or when otherwise engaged in the instruction of students.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; G.S. 115C-46.1, -47(18); *Boring v. Buncombe County Bd. of Educ.*, 136 F.3d 364 (4th Cir. 1998); *Lee v. York County Sch. Div.*, 484 F.3d 687 (4th Cir. 2007)

Cross References: Official School Spokesperson (policy 2220)

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