

## CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

6124.3

### STUDENT AND SCHOOL POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

- I. With the legal voting age being eighteen years, the Clark County School District realizes the obligation of schools for citizenship training. Therefore, the Clark County School District should take a positive position in organizing and establishing a program to orient students toward voting as their duty, responsibility and privilege, and in recognizing the right of all candidates and parties to have equal access in promulgating their program and policies to students. In attempting to fulfill this responsibility, guidelines must be established from which principals, teachers, and senior high school students can develop a system for cooperation with political candidates and for review of political issues.
  - A. The following definitions are hereby deemed applicable to this policy:
    1. “Candidate” is any person seeking election to public office in the State of Nevada, County of Clark, whether for a partisan or nonpartisan office and whether affiliated with a political party or as an independent that has filed a declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of State of the State of Nevada or with the Clark County Registrar of Voters.
    2. “Political party” or “party” is any political organization or group certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Nevada to be a lawfully recognized political party pursuant to Nevada law.
    3. “School” is any senior high school operated and maintained by the District.
  - B. Candidates wishing to speak should be impartially presented to the students. Principals are cautioned to adhere to rulings which require equal opportunity for expression to opposing points of view and to equal opportunities for all candidates. It is the responsibility of the principal to develop a plan that defines the degree or extent of time involvement which remains educationally sound in allowing political candidates to address student assemblages. It is recognized that principals have no responsibility to provide a captive audience for any candidate or political party.
  - C. The administration of the District has been approached in the past by political candidates and parties with requests for advertising space in school newspapers and yearbooks. Schools are hereby permitted to accept advertising from any and all who seek permission to place an ad in

the above-mentioned school publications. The school should not seek out candidates to solicit their financial support, but will be allowed to inform candidates or elected officials of this opportunity.

- D. Elected or appointed public officials may be allowed to appear on campus if it serves meaningful and predetermined objectives of a class or course of study. The school has a responsibility to allow for opposing positions if a presentation deals with controversial topics or issues. Officials should be briefed by the teacher prior to presentation, to ensure they direct their presentation toward meeting the specified objectives.
- E. Registration of voters is a nonpartisan activity that can be a beneficial political activity if it is not allowed to interfere with the normal school routine. Registrars may be permitted to conduct voluntary registration drives during the school day on a nonpartisan basis. They must, however, follow established guidelines to avoid any disruption of classes.
- F. The administration of the District recognizes the necessity to provide for orientation of students toward political issues. The discussion of political issues should be encouraged at all levels, but teachers must be careful to see that all sides of issues are examined. Teachers must not try to impose their own political views on students.
- G. Political parties are allowed to form political party organizations on campuses, provided they adhere to the following guidelines:
  - 1. A political party organization on campus must conform to club regulations of the school constitution or the regulations established by the school for the control of the establishment and operation of clubs.
  - 2. No political activity of any kind is to be conducted during class hours.
  - 3. Membership must be open to any student who wishes to participate.
- H. In establishing political activities on campus, the school representative should be familiar with District policy as it relates to the legal use of school buildings for political activities.
- I. The school administration has the right and responsibility to prohibit the distribution and display of political posters on campuses or material that might be construed as political prepared by any special interest group which may wish to use the school as an advertising vehicle. This is not to imply control over the display and distribution of the normal student

election posters and advertising material as it may relate directly to student elections.

- J. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to limit the right of speakers to appear on campus for non-election activities, as set forth in any other policy heretofore adopted.

Review Responsibility:	Instructional Division
Adopted:	[6144.1: 2/10/72]
Revised:	(8/13/81)
Pol Gov Rev:	6/28/01