

SECTION: EMPLOYEES

TITLE: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

ADOPTED: November 8, 2010

REVISED: January 9, 2017

# ST. MARYS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

321. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES	
1. Authority	The Board recognizes and encourages the right of administrative, professional and support employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, district property and district time, paid for by taxpayers, may not be used for political purposes by district employees when performing assigned duties.
2. Definitions	<p><b>School time</b> - the time or hours designated by contract, Board policy, or other official notification by the school district for which compensation is provided or for which an employee is acting in an official capacity during district-sponsored events or functions.</p> <p><b>School property</b> - all facilities, grounds, vehicles, supplies, furnishings, educational material, equipment, machinery, and intellectual property and data that the school district owns or leases. This excludes state, township or borough streets and access roads within school grounds.</p>
3. Guidelines	The Board adopts the following guidelines for those staff members who intend to engage in political activities:
SC 510	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No employee shall engage in political activities during assigned hours or upon property under the jurisdiction of the Board.</li> <li>2. Political circulars or petitions may not be posted or distributed in school.</li> <li>3. The collection of and/or the solicitation for campaign funds or campaign workers is prohibited on school property.</li> <li>4. No materials that would promote the candidacy of any candidate or political party may be displayed in a facility of this district used as a polling place on any officially declared election day.</li> <li>5. The use of students for writing, addressing or distributing partisan political materials is forbidden.</li> </ol> <p>District employees who hold elective or appointive office are not entitled to time off from their school duties for reasons incident to such offices, except as such time may qualify under the leave policies of the Board or any currently valid negotiated agreement of the Board.</p>

	<p>The following situations are exempt from the provisions of this policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The discussion and study of politics and political issues, when such discussion and study are appropriate to classroom studies, such as history, current events, and political science.</li><li>2. The conduct of student elections and campaigning connected therewith.</li></ol> <p>Professional educators must abide by the Professional Code of Ethics which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Professional educators shall abide by the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P. S. § § 1-101—27-2702), other school laws of the Commonwealth, sections 1201(a)(1), (2) and (4) and (b)(1), (2) and (4) of the Public Employee Relations Act (43 P. S. § § 1101.1201(a)(1), (2) and (4) and (b)(1), (2) and (4)) and this chapter.</li><li>2. Professional educators shall exhibit consistent and equitable treatment of students, fellow educators and parents. They shall respect the civil rights of all and not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, culture, religion, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, age, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, disabling condition or vocational interest. This list of bases or discrimination is not all-inclusive.</li><li>3. Professional educators shall accept the value of diversity in educational practice. Diversity requires educators to have a range of methodologies and to request the necessary tools for effective teaching and learning.</li><li>4. Professional educators shall impart to their students principles of good citizenship and societal responsibility.</li><li>5. Professional educators shall be open-minded, knowledgeable and use appropriate judgment and communication skills when responding to an issue within the educational environment.</li></ol> <p>Violations of any of the foregoing shall, at the discretion of the Board, constitute cause for reprimand, penalty, or dismissal.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510</p> <p>Chapter 235</p>
--	---