

Policy Code: 5190 STAFF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education believes that school system employees have the right and obligation to be informed and politically active citizens - including the right to register, the right to vote, the right to be active members of the political party of their choice, the right to campaign for candidates and **attend political events, and contribute funds to partisan groups or candidates**, and the right to seek, campaign for, and serve in public office provided there is no local, state or federal law prohibiting them from seeking a certain political office. No employee's position will be in jeopardy due to his or her political activities as long as the employee adheres to the terms of this policy. No person employed by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education shall engage in partisan political activity during the employee's working hours or at any time the employee is performing his or her job duties for the school system, nor shall employees participate in political activity in a manner that may be perceived to represent the school or school system. No employee may use school equipment or resources at any time for a partisan political activity **or 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 2000, 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 REF: U.S. Const. amend. I; [G.S. 115C-47](#); *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 REFERENCE: Cross References: Official School Spokesperson (policy 2000)

ADOPTED: February 7, 2005

AMENDED: December 2, 2013, [May 4, 2021](#)

Edenton-Chowan Schools