

# Downey Unified School District

## CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

### POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

AR 4135

The Board of Education recognizes the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. It therefore enacts the following rules in regard to political activity:

1. No employee shall engage in political activities during working hours nor upon property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. "Property," as used herein, includes school premises, property owned by the school district, whether the possession be through lease or otherwise. However, outside of on-duty hours employees have the same right as all other persons to participate in political activities permitted under the Civic Center Act.
2. Except as permitted under the Civic Center Act, the following activities upon property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education are specifically prohibited:
  - a. Posting of political circulars or petitions on bulletin boards.
  - b. The distribution to employees, whether by placing in their school mailboxes or otherwise, of political circulars or petitions, United States mail being excepted.
  - c. The collection of and/or solicitation for campaign funds.
  - d. Solicitation for campaign workers.
  - e. The use of pupils for writing or addressing political materials or the distribution of such materials to pupils.
3. Elections to determine membership on the Board of Education shall be considered to be political within the meaning of these rules. There shall be no discussion of candidates.
4. Employees shall obey any and all applicable sections of the Education Code, Title 5, and any other applicable statutes. In the event of any conflict between Board policies and administrative regulations and the said codes and statutes, the codes and statutes shall prevail.
5. Violation of any of the foregoing rules shall, at the discretion of the Board of Education, constitute cause for disciplinary action.

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6. Nothing in these rules shall prevent
  - a. The dissemination of information concerning school tax and/or bond elections if done in accordance with restrictions of the Education Code (which prohibits the preparation or dissemination of information for the purposes of influencing the electors in the District in voting at any school district election or in voting upon any proposition affecting the public schools of the District). Nothing in the Education Code shall be construed as prohibiting any member of the Board of Education or any administrator from appearing at any time before a citizens group which requests his/her appearance to discuss the reasons why the Board of Education called an election to submit a proposition for the issuance of bonds or for an increase in the maximum tax rate, and to answer questions from any taxpayer concerning the cost of such proposals.
  - b. 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.
  - c. The conducting of student and employee elections and campaigning connected therewith.

Approved: 7/8/76