

Political Activities of School Employees

General. School employees are encouraged to assume full democratic citizenship rights and responsibilities, including voting, or refraining from voting; discussing social, political, and economic issues of the day in public meetings; supporting candidates; accepting appointed or elective public office consistent with state statutes; and holding office in political parties. Such political involvement by school employees is encouraged to the extent that it does not interfere with their regular school duties.

Performance of Civic Duties by Employees. Employees are encouraged to perform civic duties commensurate with democratic ideals, including:

1. Voting and taking an interest in the social, political, and economic issues of the day.
2. Exercising democratic rights and responsibilities which are shared in common with other citizens. These rights and privileges may include:
 - a. electioneering for candidates.
 - b. accepting positions in political campaigns.
 - c. holding an office in a political party organization.
 - d. serving as a delegate to political party conventions.

Individual Responsibility in Participating in Political Functions. Employees engaging in political activities shall:

1. Realize their primary obligation to their work as school employees.
2. Endeavor to make others realize that their statements and actions are made or taken as individuals and not as representatives of the school system.
3. Not engage in political activities on school premises during school hours.

Personal Leave for Political Activities. Upon proper request and mutual agreement and consistent with state statutes, leaves of absence without pay for political activities may be granted by the Superintendent for the purpose of being a candidate for political office or holding political office.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees
7-421b Limitations on restriction of political rights of municipal employees
10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception