

STAFF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

All candidates for election to the Alexandria City School Board shall be encouraged to become familiar with the operation of the school division. The Superintendent shall provide to all individuals who have declared their candidacy notice and agendas of School Board meetings and access to school system records in a manner consistent with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Such records shall include documents describing the duties and responsibilities of school boards and school board members, current policies of the School Board, regulations, and publications of the school division.

When space is available, candidates may use school facilities as permitted by School Board Policy KG and regulations governing the use of school facilities. No candidate for election to the School Board, including current School Board members, or candidates for other local, state or federal office, shall host or participate in any program on the School Board's cable television channel, or otherwise appear on it, except a televised School Board meeting or other public meeting; other on-the-spot coverage of a news event; an actual news broadcast or interview; or a news documentary in which the candidate is not the subject. No candidate may promote themselves or their campaign on any of ACPS' media platforms.

Candidates for election to the School Board shall not use school division equipment, facilities, logos, stationery, or school division events at which they are official participants in support of their campaigns. Candidates shall not use school division staff members to perform work in support of their campaigns unless an employee volunteers to perform such work outside of regular work hours.

The Alexandria City School Board acknowledges the right of its employees to engage in political activity not in violation of local, state, or federal law. The School Board also recognizes that school time and school property should not be used for partisan political purposes. The following is a non-exhaustive list of activities prohibited by this policy. An ACPS employee may not:

- Participate in campaign activities during hours of employment;
- Use his or her position within the school division to further a political cause;
- Engage in any activity supporting or opposing a candidate or political party while on duty, while on school property during school hours, or while representing the school division;
- Suggest in any manner that the school division supports or opposes a candidate for election to any office;
- Use school division resources to support or oppose a candidate for public office or political party; or
- Distribute campaign material to any student during school hours, unless such distribution is in furtherance of the objectives of the curriculum.

Additionally, no employee shall be elected or required to participate in any campaign or to support any candidate as a condition of employment.

These restrictions are not intended to limit the rights of employees to support or oppose any political candidate or party on their own time. They are intended to minimize distractions from instruction; assure that no public funds are used to support any candidate for public office; and assure that the public is not given the false impression that the school division supports or opposes any political candidate or party. Employees who engage in political activities on their own time must make clear that their views and actions represent their individual positions and do not represent the views of the school division.

Adopted: November 17, 1998
Amended: June 11, 2015
Amended: June 23, 2016

Legal Refs.: [47 USC § 315\(a\)](#)

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ [22.1-70](#), [22.1-78](#)

Cross Refs.:	GAC	Employee Use of Social Media
	GAC-R/IIBEB-R	Social Media Regulations
	KF	Distribution of Information/Materials
	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
	KG-R	Community Use of School Facilities Regulations and Application