

## Background

The political election process in Alberta and Canada normally occurs every three to five years. The Division recognizes the importance in a democracy of political activities. The Board acknowledges its responsibility to parents and will ensure students and staff are not subject to political canvassing on the school premises.

## Procedures

1. Campaigning in Division schools by individual candidates or parties for municipal, school board, provincial or federal elections is prohibited except that:
  - 1.1 Schools may organize all-candidate forums for educational purposes;
  - 1.2 School space may be rented after hours by a candidate or party on a commercial use basis; and
  - 1.3 Political candidates and/or their representatives may speak to classes, groups, or assemblies preferably during non-school hours, provided the attendance is by invitation and is voluntary, and provided all parties are given equal opportunity.
2. The posting or distribution of campaign materials associated with elections on lands or within buildings owned by the Division is prohibited, except that campaign materials may be:
  - 2.1 Posted and distributed in that portion of a school rented for a campaign meeting or being used for an all-candidates forum; however, all political materials must be removed from school premises at the end of any such meeting;
  - 2.2 Used as classroom teaching resources on the condition that support for an individual candidate or political party is not solicited; and
  - 2.3 Posted regarding school board elections as directed by the Board.
3. Political campaign materials and political literature in general may not be distributed through the school or sent home to parents although it may be used directly with those students attending meetings described in procedure 1 above.
4. Political candidates and/or their representatives shall not have access, during school hours, to school classes or assemblies on behalf of their candidacy or on behalf of their party/constituency for the purpose of solicitation of support.
5. The school principal shall ensure that all staff members have been advised of these procedures.
6. The school principal shall report to the Superintendent any unusual circumstances that may originate from these procedures.

## Reference

[School Act](#) - Section 20, 27, 60, 61, 113