

## The School Board of Gadsden County

### Bylaws & Policies

Unless a specific policy has been amended and the date of the policy was revised is noted at the bottom of that policy, the bylaws and policies of The School Board of Gadsden County were adopted on June 25, 2013, and were in effect beginning June 26, 2013.

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#### 1232 - POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to State law, administrative staff members who are employed by the School Board shall not participate in any political campaign for an elective office while on duty.

Pursuant to State law and Board Policy [6480](#), administrative staff members may not expend public funds (that is, any funds under the jurisdiction or control of the District) for a political advertisement or electioneering communication concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment, including State questions that are subject to a vote of the electors.

Pursuant to F.S. 106.011, "electioneering communication" shall mean any communication that is publicly distributed by a television station, radio station, cable television station, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, or telephone. In order to qualify as an electioneering communication, the communication must also be characterized by the following:

- A. refers to or depicts a clearly identified candidate for office without expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate, but is susceptible to no reasonable interpretation other than an appeal or against a specific candidate;
- B. is made within thirty (30) days before a primary or special primary election or sixty (60) days before any other election for the office sought by the candidate; and
- C. is targeted to the relevant electorate in the geographic area the candidate would represent if elected.

Therefore, administrative staff members who engage in political activities or hold public office shall not use time, facilities, or personnel of the school system to engage in such activities. Specifically, the use of copy reproduction equipment or other machinery or supplies, the use of secretarial help, or any other school facilities or personnel is strictly prohibited. Telephone use for such political activities during duty hours shall be confined to an emergency only, and then only in such manner as shall not conflict with the administrative staff member's school related duties. Additionally, administrative staff members who engage in political activities or hold public office are expected to discourage constituents, or other persons with whom they are associated with in their political capacities, from making telephone calls to them during duty hours.

Administrative staff who declare themselves candidates for an elective office shall notify the Superintendent immediately upon filing to run.

All candidates for public office may be granted personal leave without pay. The administrative staff member's request for leave shall be submitted according to the established procedure.

Such candidates shall adhere strictly to Florida statutes governing political activity on the part of public official and public employees.

An administrative staff member who is a successful candidate for an office requiring a part-time responsibility shall report immediately to the Superintendent after the election and thereafter, when deemed necessary by the Superintendent or Board, to evaluate the compatibility of the dual responsibility and the need for personal leave without pay.

F.S. 104.31, 110.233

F.A.C. 60L-36.002

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