



## Voter Education Guide

Thank you for your enthusiasm to support the students of Brevard County Public Schools. Through your efforts, we can reach our community with positive information regarding the accomplishments of our district. In addition, your work will help citizens become better informed about what is at stake in the November 4, 2014 election when Brevard Public Schools will ask the citizens to assess a half-cent sales surtax to support capital projects.

To comply with the spirit of Board Policy: 3580 - SUPPORTING POLITICAL CANDIDATES

*Instructional staff shall not solicit support for any political candidate during regular work hours or on Board property. Candidates for public office or their representatives shall not be permitted to solicit support during work hours or on Board property.*

For the sake of clarity, these guidelines would apply to any individual working or volunteering to conduct the regular business of educating students during the school day and at extension programs such as field trips. To guide your efforts, here are a list of acceptable practices that should be considered.

### What Can Be Done

#### When representing the school/district:

- ✓ Inform the public about the facts of the election.
- ✓ Distribute informational literature.
- ✓ Speak at afterschool activities (if invited by a non-profit organization such as a PTA or Booster Club).\*\*

#### When NOT representing the school/district:

- ✓ Share your position with friends, family & community members.
- ✓ Distribute position based literature off school property.
- ✓ Serve on a community based committee that is promoting a position.
- ✓ Speak at groups to promote your position.

*\*\*Speaking with non-profit groups must comply with district building use policies.*

### What Can't Be Done

#### When representing the school/district:

- ✓ Use school district resources that include, but are not limited to technology or supplies to advocate for a position.
- ✓ Campaign on school property or near school property if it is a disruption to the daily operations of the school.
- ✓ Distribute literature or post signs that advocate for a position on school property.
- ✓ Advocate your position during school related activities.

#### When NOT representing the school/district:

- ✓ No Restrictions

# Common Questions

Q: I'm a volunteer. Can I wear pro- position clothing/buttons while working with the students:

**A: No. Even though you are a volunteer, you are still representing the school district when working at the school.**

Q: I'm the president of the PTA and I would like to have a representative from a political committee speak to my members about an issue. Since the meeting is on school property, can the speaker advocate one way or the other?

**A: Yes. A PTA is a non-profit organization that operates separately from the school district. As long as the facilities use forms are current and aligned with Board policy, they may invite speakers to present a position.**

Q: I'm a member of a political committee and I would like to use a classroom in a school to conduct a meeting to advocate for an issue. Can I have access?

**A: Yes. However as per Board Policy, you would need to follow the facilities use process and pay all required fees.**

Q: I work for the district and would like to distribute materials to the parents and community members I meet while doing the duties of my job. Can I distribute materials?

**A: Yes and No. You may distribute materials that are informational only, but you are restricted from distributing materials that advocate a position.**

Q: As an employee, may I distribute materials that advocate for a position off school property to parents in the car loop?

**A: No as this would interfere with the normal operations of the school day.**

Q: I'm an employee and the president of my HOA. Can advocate for one position at my HOA meetings.

**A: Yes. While you are operating as a private citizen, you may advocate.**

Q: As an employee or volunteer, may I submit opinion articles or blog my position on an issue?

**A: As long as you are doing this during your private time, using your home computer.**

Q: Can a support group such as a PTA or Booster Club fundraise for a political committee on school property?

**A: No. While you may fundraise to support a position, you cannot utilize school resources to do so.**

Q: The district has many informational resources on its website. Can people utilize/distribute these materials?

**A: Yes. All materials on our website are available for community use.**

Q: Many of the materials have production costs. Did the district use tax dollars to print these?

**A: No. In 2013 the district implemented an advertising and marketing campaign to raise non-tax dollars. All materials produced have been paid for with revenues from this initiative.**