

CANDIDATE FORUMS/DEBATES IN SCHOOLS

The purpose of this policy is to address certain political and election related activities on the premises of the School District of New Berlin or at school-sponsored functions. The District's primary mission is the education of its students. Advocacy for a particular candidate for a public office is inconsistent with that mission. In order to avoid any appearance of partiality or bias on the part of the District, use of District facilities (which is set forth in general under Policy 1330) for candidate forums or candidate debates shall comply with the following guidelines.

Candidate forums or candidate debates for elective, public offices may be conducted on District properties, so long as all candidates of all parties for the same office, or offices, have been invited to the forum. The invitation will be extended to all candidates who have filed nomination papers for an elected public office no less than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the designated event or activity to allow each candidate the opportunity to make preparations to attend. Certification, in writing, shall be made to the building principal by the persons or groups applying for use of the facilities.

Nothing in this policy is intended to affect the following situations:

1. Discussion, activities, and study of politics and political issues, including outside speakers, classroom studies, such as history, current events, and political science. Political discussions with students shall attempt to include all perspectives on issues or all candidates for an office, and shall be related to the curriculum.
2. Conduct of student elections and connected campaigning.
3. Student organizations shall be subject to the restrictions above.
4. When school facilities are used as official polling places, in which case state or municipal laws shall apply.

Adopted: 2/9/04

Revised: 12/18/09