

**STAFF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

The Board recognizes that employees of the district have the same fundamental civic responsibilities and privileges as other citizens. Among these are campaigning for elective public office and holding an elective or appointive public office.

In connection with campaigning, the employee remains responsible for fulfilling all of the employee's responsibilities to the district. Additionally, no employee will use school system facilities, equipment, or supplies; nor will the employee discuss his or her campaign with students or with school personnel during the working day; nor will the employee use any time during the working day for campaigning purposes.

An employee seeking an extended leave of absence without pay for campaigning, office-holding, or other time consuming activities connected with government service must apply to the Board for such leave in writing.

An employee will not lose their job or position for becoming a candidate for any public office unless it causes a neglect of duty.

**Legal References:** SDCL 13-43-15.1 (Right of employee to run for office)

**Notification:** 10/15/2024

**1st Reading:** 11/12/2024