



## KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### POLICY STATEMENT

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**Section: Educational Services**

- **Programs and Curriculum**

**Policy Code: ES-3.2**

**Policy: POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS**

**Page 1**

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The Board believes it is important for students to gain an appreciation of good citizenship and of the role local, provincial, national and global politics play in everyday life. The Board encourages schools to provide opportunities for students to gain experience in political affairs, believing that students should be encouraged to study, discuss and debate political opinions in an open, informed and reasoned manner. The Board encourages schools to provide these valuable learning experiences through program components within the curriculum and through co-curricular opportunities. At no time shall political activity interfere with the normal operation of the school unless by resolution of the Board and/or at the request of the Ministry of Education.

#### **1. Student Opportunities**

To ensure that students have these opportunities, the Board endorses:

- 1.1 the Student Leadership Group as a political organization in secondary schools in accordance with Board Policy No. B-1.5, Student Trustees, and the supporting administrative regulations;
- 1.2 the inclusion of two pupils as trustees of the Board in accordance with O.Reg. 7/07, Board Policy No. B-1.5, Student Trustees, and any supporting administrative regulations;
- 1.3 the student council, or equivalent, as a form of student government in elementary, where appropriate, and secondary schools;
- 1.4 the inclusion of non-partisan political clubs as co-curricular activities in secondary schools;
- 1.5 the holding of all-candidates' assemblies, for educational and informational purposes, in the elementary schools, where appropriate, and secondary schools during federal, provincial and municipal election campaigns;
- 1.6 the development, where appropriate, of political study components within the curriculum; and
- 1.7 staff involvement in student political opportunities. This involvement must be, as always, highly professional, free of political bias, and must refrain from denigrating, promoting, or proselytizing any political points of view.

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**Page 2**

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## **2. Right to Access**

- 2.1 The Board reserves the right to prohibit access to elementary and secondary schools or any other Board property by a candidate(s), where it deems appropriate.