Cottonwood School District No. 242

PERSONNEL

Political Activity - Staff Participation

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

In the event that an employee is elected to an office, he or she may request a leave of absence in accordance with the leave policies of the District or the provisions of the applicable labor agreement for the employee.

No person may attempt to coerce, command, or require a public employee to support or oppose any political committee, the nomination or election of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue.

The District shall not restrict constitutionally protected political speech of employees during noninstructional times in non-student contact settings, such as during duty-free periods in faculty break rooms and lounges during the school day or during afterschool events. Nothing in this section is intended to restrict the right of a District employee to express his or her personal constitutionally protected political views.

Legal Reference: 5 USC 7321, et seq. Hatch Act

<u>Policy History:</u> Adopted on: February 22, 2017 Revised on: