

One of the School Board's important functions is to serve as an advocate for the District and all of its students, and, more generally, as an advocate for public education and educational excellence and equity. The Board's advocacy role encompasses intra-district and local community responsibilities. It also extends beyond the District to include regional, state, and even national concerns.

Advocacy activities are attempts to engage and communicate effectively with others. Advocacy activities have varied purposes and include activities that aim to collaborate, promote, influence, persuade, listen, problem-solve, or simply inform.

Specifically related to legislative and public policy issues, the Board seeks to both proactively and reactively engage and advocate on behalf of the District and its students with lawmakers, agency personnel, and other government officials. On matters of common concern, the Board will leverage the resources and activities of interest-based collaborations and of regional and state-wide associations that are pursuing shared interests and objectives.

In the performance of their duties and regardless of their personal views, those individuals who are authorized to act as spokespersons for the express purpose of advocating District interests and Board positions to lawmakers, agency personnel, and other government officials shall convey such interests and positions in a manner that is consistent with any specific or general direction that has been given by the Board. The authorized spokespersons shall likewise adhere to any limitations on their authority as may be specified by the Board.

In pursuing the Board's legislative and public policy advocacy goals, neither the Board nor any District employee or authorized agent of the Board, while acting in his/her official District capacity, may (1) campaign for or against any particular candidate(s) in an election; (2) use District funds to make contributions to any candidate or political committee; or (3) use any public resources for any other political purpose that is prohibited by law.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin State Statute Sections 113.61-65, 120.13

Adopted: 09/06/16
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