



School District Governance Association of New Hampshire

Model Policy approved Apr 15 2024

## Public Comments and Political Activity of the Superintendent

Policy Code(s) CBFA/CBGA

Policy Text	Annotations
<p>The Superintendent is expected to communicate routinely with the community about school events and operations.</p> <p>The Superintendent is not authorized to communicate with the community as spokesperson for the School Board, or to opine on issues being deliberated by the School Board.</p>	<p>The intent of this policy is to restrict public pronouncements by the superintendent that should primarily be the duty of the school board, and to prevent the superintendent from showing political bias or social advocacy in his position.</p> <p>A counterpart to this policy may be needed at the SAU level.</p>
<p>The Superintendent will speak on behalf of the School Board only when specifically so authorized by a prior vote of the Board.</p> <p>There shall be no blanket delegation under this policy.</p>	<p>The School Board should decide the specific scope and circumstances under which the Superintendent is authorized to speak on behalf off the school district.</p>
<p>When the superintendent is authorized by the board to communicate with the broader public via any media or in-person speech, the superintendent will at all times restrict his comments to matters of fact. Opinions, taking sides in disagreements between Board members, advocacy for or against political or district policies, or other matters that are not strictly factual or outside the realm of superintendent responsibilities will be considered an infraction of this policy and result in personnel action.</p>	
<p>Nothing in this policy restricts the superintendent from answering parents' emails and calls or attending to personnel issues within his/her authority.</p>	
<p>Nothing in this policy restricts the superintendent from exercising first amendment rights with regard to matters unrelated to School District business.</p>	
<b>References</b>	