

## GROUPS VISITING SCHOOLS

### Background

From time to time speakers and presentations can be arranged for all or part of the school to present viewpoints, information or entertainment which augments the school program provides timely perspectives on current events and/or generally fosters students' human, social, and career development.

### Procedures

1. Individual schools may invite or accept invitations from groups or speakers wishing to visit in the schools, providing that:
  - 1.1. the purpose of the program is clearly stated and the students are so informed;
  - 1.2. no group or speaker be permitted to ask students to make a commitment to a particular belief;
  - 1.3. no solicitation of names and addresses of students be undertaken;
  - 1.4. loss of instructional time is avoided for non-curricular related activities.
  
2. Where federal, provincial or local election campaigns are in progress, the following general procedures apply to ensure that schools are not identified with a specific political stance.
  - 2.1. Teachers shall clear the matter with the Principal and Superintendent or designate before extending invitations or granting approval.
  - 2.2. No class time shall be made available for uninvited political speakers.
  - 2.3. Discretion shall be used in inviting speakers who have political positions to present. If any are presented, then all parties must be given equal opportunity.
  - 2.4. Where election issues are dealt with by the staff in current events or other areas, steps must be taken to ensure that each party's position is fairly stated.
  - 2.5. No political party advertising will be posted, distributed and/or published in schools.
  - 2.6. Political information may be used by teachers to illustrate, in an objective fashion, the workings of the political process.
  - 2.7. From the date an election is called until after election day, candidates for political office may be given the opportunity to address students, but only if taking part in a panel debate.
  
3. Visitors shall not use student or school photos and/or artwork for promotions of an individual or organization unless prior approval has been received.

Reference: *Sections 17, 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act; Local Government Act elections provisions.*

Last reviewed: March 2017