

LDSD Policy on Classroom Displays and Decorations

Materials and decorations displayed by school employees on district property will not represent any controversial subject matter or political or religious messages. Such materials include, but are not limited to signs, posters, fliers, banners, flags, or decorations, including images, symbols or text.

Neither the United States flag nor the flag of any state of the Union, in an unaltered form, are considered controversial for the purposes of this policy.

Materials, symbols, etc. that are temporarily displayed in the classroom or other instructional areas will be exempt from this policy as long as they are displayed as part of a lesson based on the approved curriculum and content standards, and as long as they are school appropriate, grade level appropriate, relevant and significant to the applicable lesson. This clause shall in no way exempt the employee or the school district from any laws or policies prohibiting the teaching of divisive concepts.

Materials displayed on school property can be reasonably construed as endorsed or permitted by the district and may be removed by the principal, superintendent, or designee if they are determined to be in violation of this policy.

Controversial materials include:

- Materials endorsing a candidate, platform, position, political party, or slogan
- Concepts, images, slogans, or phrases that have appeared in the media and have been associated with controversy or a movement or cause
- Concepts, images, slogans, or phrases that a reasonable person would deem offensive, obscene, or inflammatory

If an employee feels that this policy is being unfairly enforced, the LDSD staff grievance procedure will serve as the appeal process.

If a district employee, student, or patron wishes to report a suspected violation of this policy, they must follow this procedure. Report to the building principal, and the building principal will make a determination within 5 school days whether the object in question is in violation of the policy. At that point the building principal will either have the employee remove the object or notify the employee that a complaint has been made and that the object in question does not violate this policy. The building principal will report back to the complainant on the status of the complaint. An appeal of the principal's determination by the complainant must be submitted in writing to the superintendent within 5 school days of notification of the building principal's determination. The next level of appeal beyond the superintendent is to the board of education and must be submitted in writing within 10 days of notification of the superintendent's determination.

DRAFT updated May 6, 2022