

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF

Material being sent home with students should relate to school matters or student-related community activities. Except when it pertains to the individual student, all such material must be approved in advance by the Superintendent/designee.

Advance approval of the building principal is required prior to distribution where the materials relate to individual classroom activities, to the general curriculum and building-level matters.

Advance approval by the Superintendent is required prior to distribution of all other materials.

There is no District obligation to distribute or post any community group materials. But if a forum is opened up to any category of group (i.e., non-profit, non-partisan, community groups), the Superintendent will not discriminate against speech or materials on the basis of its viewpoint or religious content.

The determination of the Superintendent will be viewpoint-neutral in order to provide equal access to "limited public forums" including bulletin boards for notices, tables at back-to-school nights, or hand-outs to students.

Students shall not be used to distribute partisan materials or partisan information pertaining to a school or general election, budget or bond issue, or negotiations. Students shall not be exploited for the benefit of any individual, group, or profit-making organization.

No staff member may distribute any materials on school property without prior approval of the Superintendent. Materials will clearly indicate their source. Non-school-related materials will be plainly labeled, including an express disclaimer that the activity is "not a school-sponsored activity." Flyers and parental permission slips for non-school-related activities will be subject to the same review and standards.

Individuals, groups of individuals, organizations and community organizations, any school-based organizations that wish to post materials in buildings must submit the materials to the Superintendent or his/her designee for approval in accordance with regulation 1140.

The privilege to distribute materials may be revoked for all groups within a category at any time.

The following materials are prohibited from distribution in all circumstances:

- A. Obscene materials;
- B. Libelous materials;
- C. Materials having a commercial use or purpose, except when approved by the Superintendent;
- D. Materials related to a solicitation of funds, except when approved by the Superintendent.

No materials shall be distributed on Election Day within 100 feet of a polling place.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF (continued)

All surveys, questionnaires or other similar items requiring student or parent/guardian response shall be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent prior to distribution. The Superintendent shall solicit written permission from parents/guardians before students participate in surveys or research that requests personal information as set out in federal law.

- Legal References:** N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34 Written approval required prior to acquisition of certain survey information from students
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4 Distribution of literature as to candidacy, bond issues, or other public question to be submitted at election; prohibited
N.J.S.A. 19:34-6 Obstructing or interfering with polling place or voter
N.J.S.A. 19:34-15 Electioneering within or about polling place; misdemeanor

34 CFR 98.1 - Student Protection Rights Amendment

Child Evangelism Fellowship of New Jersey. vs. Stafford Township School District, No. 03-1101 (October 2004)

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

- Cross References:** *1100 Communicating with the public
1315 Distribution of materials to students and staff
*1322 Contests for students
*1330 Use of School Facilities
4135.16 Work stoppages/strikes
4235.16 Work stoppages/strikes
*5136 Fund-raising activities
*6142.10 Technology
*6145.3 Publications
6162.5 Research

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Distribution of Materials, Research

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