

Policy

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 or his or her designee.

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 will be subject to the same review and standards.

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 state and federal law.

Adopted: March 2007
NJSBA Review/Update: April 2014
Readopted: December 2014

Key Words

Distribution of Materials, Research

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 Prohibited actions in polling place on election day, exception for simulated voting
N.J.S.A. 19:34-15 Electioneering within or about polling place; disorderly persons offense

34 CFR 98.1 - Student Protection Rights Amendment

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

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY
STUDENTS AND STAFF (continued)

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

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1100	Communicating with the public
	1315	Distribution of materials to students and staff
	*1322	Contests for students
	*1330	Use of School Facilities
	4135.16/4235.16	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.