

Community Relations

Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students)

The purpose of permitting the distribution of materials by students is to provide a convenient and inexpensive method to notify students and parents of extra-curricular activities of a general interest to students in the school district. At the same time this courtesy to the school community has the potential to interfere with the efficient operation of the school district. The Board of Education reserves the right to refuse distribution of any material to the students of the district by individuals or groups not affiliated with the Region 14 Schools.

Members of the school and local community may request approval to distribute non-curricular materials during non-instructional time. The Superintendent of Schools (or designee) shall impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the distribution of materials to prevent disruption and preserve the educational focus of the schools. Such materials must be pre-approved by the Superintendent and shall comply with the following standards:

1. The materials must relate to youth-oriented activities or events (e.g., sports, recreational, social or civic activities) of the public schools, parent teacher organizations, town, or other local, non-profit organizations.
2. The materials must explicitly identify the organization(s) distributing the materials and all sources of information contained in the publication.
3. The materials are not in violation of the law or any Board policy and do not encourage violation of the law or any Board policy.

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that students are made aware that the materials that are approved for distribution are not necessarily endorsed or sponsored by the school district.

All requests from groups or individuals to have students distribute materials to people in the community, with the exception of requests from school-connected organizations like parent-teacher organizations or Board appointed citizens' ad hoc advisory committees, will be referred to the office of the Superintendent to determine whether the requests comply with overall school purposes and policy.

Use of Students

The Board prohibits the use of students during normal school hours in activities which are not part of the normal educational and planned curriculum process. Permission for use of students in activities of a non-educational nature must be obtained from the Superintendent or his/her designee who will ensure that the student's rights in terms of voluntary activities are maintained and that students are not exploited either knowingly or unknowingly.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall interpret this policy strictly; the decisions of the Superintendent will be final.

Budget/Referendum Materials

After the date is set for the budget referendum, information concerning a pending referendum, specifying only the time, date, location of the referendum may be disseminated through the students by methods that do NOT include e-mail, texting, or other automated notification systems. Such information may not contain any other information or statements, or be written in a manner which may advocate a position on the referendum question.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

Public Act 13-247, Section 386, "An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2015 Concerning General Government."