

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES INVOLVING STAFF, STUDENTS OR SCHOOL FACILITIES

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

The Governing Board desires to promote positive relationships between schools and the community in order to enhance community support and involvement in district schools.

- A. The Superintendent or designee may approve:
1. Distribution of noncommercial materials that publicize services, special events, public meetings or other items of interest to students or parents/guardians
  2. Paid advertisements in school-sponsored publications, yearbooks, announcements and other school communications
  3. Products and materials donated by commercial enterprises for use in the classroom, as long as they serve an educational purpose and do not unduly promote any commercial activity or products. Such materials may bear the name and/or logo of the donor.
  4. Paid and free advertisements on school property, including, but not limited to, advertisements on marquees.

Prior to distribution or publication, the Superintendent, principal or designee shall review and approve all advertising copy and promotional materials to ensure compliance with Board policy.

The Superintendent, principal or designee may selectively approve or disapprove distribution of materials or publishing of copy based on the criteria listed below, but may not disapprove materials or copy in an arbitrary or capricious manner or in a way that discriminates against a particular viewpoint on a subject that would otherwise be allowed.

All materials to be distributed shall bear the name and contact information of the sponsoring entity.

The use of promotional materials or advertisements does not imply district endorsement of any identified products or services. Schools are encouraged to include a disclaimer in school publications and yearbooks stating that the school does not endorse any advertised products or services.

- B. The Superintendent, principal or designee shall not accept for distribution any materials or advertisements that:

1. Are obscene, libelous or slanderous
2. Incite students to commit unlawful acts, violate school rules or disrupt the orderly operation of the schools
3. Promote any particular political interest, candidate, party or ballot measure, unless such materials are being distributed at a forum in which candidates or advocates from all sides are presenting their views to the students during school hours or during events scheduled pursuant to the Civic Center Act
4. Discriminate against, attack or denigrate any group on account of any unlawful consideration
5. Promote the use or sale of materials or services that are illegal or inconsistent with school objectives, including but not limited to materials or advertisements for tobacco, intoxicants, and movies or products unsuitable for children
6. Solicit funds or services for an organization, with the exception of solicitations authorized in Board policy
7. Distribute unsolicited merchandise for which an ensuing payment is requested

The Superintendent or designee also may consider the educational value of the materials or advertisements, the age or maturity of students in the intended audience, and whether the materials or advertisements support the basic educational mission of the district, directly benefit the students or are of intrinsic value to the students or their parents/guardians.

Schools may establish additional criteria pertaining to the content of advertisements in school publications and yearbooks. Such criteria may limit advertisements to those that contain congratulatory or commemorative messages, curriculum-related content, advertisements for products or services of interest to students, noncontroversial content, and/or other content deemed appropriate by the school publication staff and adviser in accordance with law and Board policy.

Legal References: Education Codes 7050-7058, 35160, 35160.1, 35172, 38130-38138  
 Business and Professions Code 25664  
 US Constitution Amendment 1  
 Court Cases DiLoreto v. Downey Unified School District, (1999) 196 F.3d 958; Yeo v. Town of Lexington, (1997) U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 96-1623; Henry v. School Board of Colorado Springs, (D.Col. 1991) 760 F.Supp. 856; Bright v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (1976) 134 Cal. Rptr. 639, 556 P.2d 1090, 18 Cal. 3d 350; Lehman v. Shaker Heights, (1974) 418 U.S. 298

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