

9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Any requests from civic institutions or special interest groups which involve such activities as patriotic functions, contests, exhibits, sales of products to and by pupils, sending promotional materials home with pupils, graduation prizes, fund raising, and free teaching materials must be carefully reviewed to insure that on balance such activities promote pupil interests without advancing the special interests of any particular group.

It is the policy of the Board of Education that pupils, staff members, and district facilities not be used for advertising or promoting the interests of any non-school agency or organization, public or private, without the approval of the Board or its delegated representative; and, any such approval granted for whatever cause or group shall not be construed as an endorsement of said cause or group by this Board.

All materials or activities proposed by outside sources for pupil or staff use or participation within the district shall be reviewed by the Building Principal on the basis of their educational value in the total school program, benefit to pupils, factual accuracy and good taste. No such approval shall have the primary purpose of advancing the name, product or special interest of the proposing group.

1. The Board recognizes that contests, exhibits, and the like may benefit individual pupils or the district as a whole, but participation in such special activities may not:
 - a. Have the primary affect of advancing a special product, group or company;
 - b. Make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff or pupils or upon the resources of the district;
 - c. Involve any direct cost to the district;
 - d. Interrupt the regular school program unless the student body as a whole derives benefit from such activities;
 - e. Cause the participants to leave the school district, unless the Board has granted special permission.
2. No materials may be used or circulated in the schools of this district which are deemed to be primarily advertising materials, with the following exceptions:



- a. Imprinted materials solicited by teachers as being suitable for a project or purpose of their class;
 - b. Fliers of direct educational and cultural interest, and of an essentially non-commercial nature;
 - c. Films bearing only the name of the sponsoring firm; and
 - d. Advertising is permitted in school newspapers, yearbooks, programs, etc., which are published by pupil organizations.
3. Outside organizations or staff members are not permitted to solicit funds on school property, exceptions require approval. Sale of tickets by community civic groups on school grounds requires the approval of the administration.
 4. The Board of Education is appreciative of the generosity of organizations which offer scholarships or prizes to deserving pupils in this district. But, in accepting the offer of such scholarships or prizes, the Board directs that these guidelines be observed:
 - a. No information either academic or personal shall be released from the pupil's records for the purpose of selecting a scholarship or prize winner without the permission of the pupil who is eighteen, or the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil who is younger in accordance with the Board's policy on pupil records;
 - b. The type of scholarship or prize, and any restrictions upon it shall be approved by the guidance department; and
 - c. The Building Principal, together with a committee of staff members designated by the Principal, shall be involved in the selection of the recipient.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

United States Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Adopted: May 26, 2009

