

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL MATERIAL TO STUDENTS

Students and the New Hanover County Schools educational program must be the focus of schools. It is, therefore, the policy of the New Hanover County Schools to create a non-public forum for distributing materials from outside organizations to be taken home by students. Staff shall be required to distribute only four (4) types of materials to students to be taken home:

- Materials from the New Hanover County Schools;
- Materials from agencies/departments with the towns, county, state or federal government and the state university system;
- Materials from Parent Teacher Associations/Organizations and school booster organizations; and
- Nonprofit organizations providing programs for youth that are primarily designed to promote fitness, cultural arts or academics consistent with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Materials that primarily promote fundraising activities by these nonprofit groups will not be approved.

Materials distributed through students shall contain no commercial advertising unless sponsored by groups identified above.

No other organizations may require school staff to distribute materials to be taken home by students. Each school shall develop procedural guidelines in conjunction with the Chief Communications Officer for the distribution of the aforementioned materials, but the distribution of non-school materials should not interfere with instructional time. Principals or the principals' designees shall approve materials from their own school organizations and booster groups. The Superintendent or designee shall approve materials from all other school-related groups, as well as agencies, government branches and nonprofit organizations before distribution.

Unless otherwise restricted by building or district level administration, staff members may share information with individual students to inform them about community resources to supplement the education provided by the school system.

Other than as authorized above, no materials shall be distributed or made available to students on New Hanover County Schools' grounds or using any mode of communication operated by the New Hanover County Schools, except materials as may be allowed under Policy 8540 Distribution of Materials by Students. This Policy shall not be construed as creating a limited public forum or a public forum.

Any person or organization may appeal a decision of a principal to disallow or restrict distribution of materials. The appeal must be in writing to the principal. The principal shall render a written decision within five (5) school days of receiving the written appeal.

If the person or organization is not satisfied with the principal's written decision, or if the principal fails to respond in writing within the time allowed, the person or organization may appeal to the Superintendent in writing within three (3) school days of receiving the principal's written decision or within three (3) school days of the deadline for the principal to respond. The Superintendent or designee shall render a written decision within seven (7) school days of receiving the written appeal.

