

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

No. 226

Board of Trustees Douglas County School District

PROGRAM

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS IN PEECHEES

Douglas County School District (hereafter, "the District") provides, at its expense, a peechee folder (hereafter "peechee") for each elementary child who attends school in the District. The peechee is a means utilized by the District to communicate with parents of children in the District. The peechee is used to communicate the children's citizenship grade and other information that the District believes is helpful to the children or their parents.

The District does not desire to provide a public forum whereby individuals or organizations in the community can indiscriminately utilize the peechees to communicate directly with children or their parents. Opening the peechees up to a public forum, or limited public forum, is not desirable for at least two reasons. First, opening the peechees up for public use would result in an increased cost to the District with no corresponding educational benefit to the children. (The District does not want its staff's time utilized to compile and distribute non-educational related information in the peechees.) Second, because peechees are utilized for grades of preschool through sixth-grade students, there is no educational benefit to children of this age in receiving information on different points of view, political, religious, or otherwise, from organizations that may desire to have access to the peechees.

In order to maintain the District's desire and policy to keep the dissemination of information in the peechees as a closed forum and not a public forum or limited public forum, each principal will be responsible to ensure that the following procedures are utilized when distributing information in the peechees.

Without any review from the principal, each teacher may distribute in the peechees homework, returned papers, letters from the teacher to parents, any citizenship grade, and any other communication between the teacher and the student or the student's parents that will advance the efforts of the teacher in educating the students in that teacher's class.

Upon receiving approval from the principal, other organizations associated with the school, such as the parent group, other teachers, the student council organization, the nurse, etc., may utilize the peechees as a means of communicating to the students and parents information that the principal believes would be beneficial to all or part of the school, students, and/or parents.

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Effective July 1, 2015, organizations not directly associated with the school and not under the direct control and influence of the principal ("outside organizations") may not disseminate information in the peechees, but instead should refer to Administrative Regulation 226(a) for information on how to access the District's Virtual Community Bulletin Board. Prior to July 1, 2015, outside organizations may continue to disseminate information in the peechees only if the requirements outlined below are met. Material that should be considered for dissemination in the peechees should be limited to that which is deemed by the Director for Education Services Area 4, to be directly beneficial to the students of the School District. The District reserves the right to refuse to disseminate information that does not serve the best interest of the School District.

The determination as to whether to include an item in the peechees will be made by the Director for Education Services, Area 4 and will be based on the following:

1. The material should not be likely to cause any type of controversy.
2. The material must not be disruptive to the educational purposes of the school.
3. The material should not create an impression that the school or the District endorses a viewpoint that is not related to the educational purposes of the School District.
4. Because unlimited dissemination of material by for-profit organizations may create a limited open forum, no information from, nor endorsement by, any commercial or for-profit organization may be included in the peechees.
5. The degree to which the information will benefit the students of the School District, and the total number of students who may receive some benefit from the information will be determining factors.

After receiving approval for distribution of material in the peechees from Education Services, the material will be distributed in the peechees at any particular school only if the principal has sufficient resources, through voluntary helpers, to sort and distribute the information into the peechees. A sufficient number of copies shall be provided to the school.

See Policy related to this Administrative Regulation

Adopted: 10/02
Revised: 1/15