

9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board of Education recognizes the contributions of persons and organizations outside the school district may take the form of materials, activities, and awards that tend to serve the interests of the contributor as well as benefit the school district and students. For the purposes of this Policy, “organizations outside the school district” shall be any organization, group, activity, club, association, agency, or individual that is not approved or sponsored by the Board of Education.

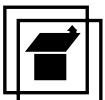
The Board reserves the right to review, approve, or reject proposed contributions from organizations outside the school district. Proposed contributions may be rejected by the Board, including but not limited to, proposed contributions that have the primary effect of advancing the name, product, or special interest of a person, corporation, or organization; fail to meet district standards of accuracy and good taste; are of little or no educational value to students; make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff and students or upon the resources of the district; interrupt or interfere with the regular school program; or involve a direct cost to the district.

The approval of the use of any material or the conduct of any activity offered by an organization outside the school district shall not under any circumstances be construed as an endorsement by this Board of any interest, cause, or organization.

Permission to solicit or raise funds on school premises will be granted only to those persons and organizations whose purposes are consistent with the goals of this district and the interests of the community and are in accordance with the Board’s fundraising policy. Solicitation or fundraising may not interfere with the orderly operation of the schools. The Board will not be responsible for the protection of or accounting for such funds and these funds may not be deposited in any district account.

The Board will not permit the distribution of literature to or through students in the school district for any organization outside the school district.

The Board of Education believes that partnering with the community-at-large in a joint public information effort when appropriate is important. The Board believes that the sending of community informational notices/flyers distributed through the staff and/or students must be handled on a case-by-case basis. Thus, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to review all flyers by outside agencies and approve as appropriate. Notices/flyers will not be distributed to the staff or sent home with students unless approved by the Superintendent.



Examples of the types of community notices/flyers that may be sent home with students that may be acceptable pending the final approval of the Superintendent include:

1. Informational flyers from the Oakland PTO regarding events and meetings;
2. Informational flyers from community groups such as the community parks and recreation groups;
3. Community youth group flyers including youth sports teams, scouting organizations, etc.;
4. Informational flyers determined to be an educational or recreational benefit to the parents of school district children.

The following informational fliers and/or other materials for distribution are prohibited:

1. Informational flyers will not be distributed to staff or sent home with students from outside municipal agencies or groups if they are in conflict with any established and existing Oakland community group or youth sports organization such as a neighboring municipal/community group fundraiser to benefit a specific agency or group within their respective community;
2. Notices and flyers will not be distributed or sent home as an advertisement for commercial or profit making organizations or businesses. For example local business generated advertisements promoting an open house for a local business establishment are prohibited;
3. Notices and flyers will not be distributed or sent home advancing or representing political candidates or political positions.

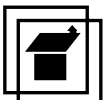
Advertising materials of commercial, political, or religious nature shall not be displayed or distributed in the schools or on school grounds.

The name of a commercial firm or other organization appearing on a free teaching aid is not considered advertising and shall be permitted.

Bulletins, except those necessary for routine administration, must be approved by the Superintendent before being posted or issued.

The Superintendent will review any requests that may fall outside of the above mentioned parameters.

COMMUNITY



The Board prohibits the distribution of political literature to or through the students of this district in school buildings or on school grounds that promotes, favors, or opposes the candidacy of any candidate for election at any annual school election, or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or any public question submitted at any general, municipal or school election. No student shall be requested or directed by any school official or employee to engage in any activity that tends to promote, favor, or oppose any such candidacy, bond issue, proposal or a public question submitted at any election.

The Superintendent shall approve participation in extracurricular contests sponsored by organizations outside the schools, as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. When such contests involve promotional aid, school time, or faculty assistance to students in essay writing, poster making, or other activities, the Superintendent shall determine whether the experiences are closely enough aligned to and in support of the instructional work of the school and will clearly serve to advance the educational aims of the district. The worthiness of the sponsoring agency's cause or the opportunity for individuals to win prizes shall not in themselves constitute sufficient reason for approving a contest.

Contests and awards whether local, State, or national shall be:

1. For the benefit of the student;
2. Open to all students on a non-discriminatory basis;
3. Consistent with district objectives;
4. Judged by disinterested parties;
5. Properly supervised with safety precautions in place;
6. Voluntary for students and teachers.

Contests and awards shall not place undue time or financial burdens on students, teachers, and parents. They shall not promote commercial products or partisan viewpoints. Participation shall not be dependent on the financial status of the student.

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

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

Adopted: 17 January 2023

