

Distribution of Materials

Printed materials may be distributed to parents/guardians as a means of mass communications. At the same time, this procedure can prove objectionable to parents/guardians and the Bethany Public School District (District), if overdone.

To provide the most effective use of this technique without exploitation of staff or students, the Superintendent or designee may approve such distribution providing:

1. The materials relate to the school, community, local recreational or civic activities.
2. The materials do not promote any religious belief or activity, private gain, or political position.
3. The materials do not promote any political party or candidate.

All requests from non-school related groups or individuals to distribute materials, with the exception of requests from school-connected organizations or Board-appointed committees, will be referred to the Superintendent or designee to determine whether the requests comply with overall school purposes and policy.

The Principal will have oversight of materials for distribution by students requested by school-related organizations such as the Parent Teacher Organization.

Budget/Referendum Materials

Information concerning a budget or referendum, specifying only the time, date, location, and question or proposal may be disseminated. This information may not contain statements or be written in a manner which may advocate a position on the budget or on a referendum question.

Advertising in the Schools

No advertising of materials used for commercial purposes shall be permitted in the school or on the grounds of the District without prior approval of the Superintendent. Advertising in student publications, including but not limited to school newsletters, planners, notebooks, or book bags, shall be regulated by rules and regulations determined by the Superintendent. Ads concerning drug paraphernalia and any controlled substance are prohibited in any school-sponsored publication.

The Superintendent or designee shall interpret this policy strictly. In case of differences regarding the decision, the decision of the Superintendent will be final in order that the best interests of the students will be served.

Dissemination of Religious Materials

Materials that have a religious content may be made available to students during non-instructional time. The District shall impose content-neutral, time, place, and manner restrictions on the dissemination of religious materials to ensure that students are aware that the materials are not being endorsed or sponsored by the District.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 9-369b

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
Policy revised: October 7, 2015
Policy revised: December 12, 2018
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