

DISTRIBUTION OF NONSCHOOL-SPONSORED LITERATURE

This policy governs distribution of nonschool-sponsored literature (including publications, leaflets, handbills or other printed material) on District property and/or at school-sponsored functions including material that will be taken home by students. The District is not a public forum and individuals or entities are not granted access to District property for the purpose of indiscriminate dissemination of information. Accordingly, except as otherwise provided in this policy, persons desiring the distribution of literature on District property and/or at school-sponsored functions including material to be sent home with students must obtain prior approval for distribution in compliance with the procedures and guidelines established by this policy.

Literature must comply with the following guidelines in order to be approved for distribution.

1. The literature must not appear to bear the authority of the school.
2. The literature must contain the name of the sponsoring entity; the names of editors and publishers, if any; and the specific authority of each article, letter, story or other writing.
3. Except as otherwise provided in this policy, literature which promotes the products, activities or services of any nonschool entity must not be “primarily” commercial in nature and must prominently display the following statement: “The opinions, products, activities and/or services of this organization are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the District.” All other standard distribution guidelines will apply. Purchase of advertising space is governed by Advertising Policy, file KJ.
4. A cover letter should indicate the grade levels and buildings and date (based on the District distribution list) requested for distribution.
5. The literature must be appropriate for the age and maturity level of the intended recipients and distribution of the literature must not be inconsistent with or interfere with the educational mission of the District. Examples of the kinds of literature that will not be approved pursuant to this guideline include the following:
 - A. literature that is defamatory, invasive of privacy or an infringement of copyright;
 - B. literature that is vulgar, indecent, plainly offensive or obscene to a minor;
 - C. literature that incites students to engage in or otherwise promotes illegal conduct or conduct that violates the student code of conduct, including the use of substances that are prohibited to minors (such as tobacco, alcohol and drugs);

- D. literature inconsistent with an environment of civility and decency and/or that violates the District's policy prohibiting ethnic intimidation;
 - E. to avoid conflict with Church and State, no literature promoting or sponsored by a religious organization and
 - F. literature that violates any other policy of the District.
6. Literature that concerns sexual or reproductive issues, whether or not it has any explicit content (including, for example, issues relating to birth control and abortion, whether from a pro-choice or a pro-life perspective), shall not be approved for distribution.
 7. Literature that promotes or opposes any political figure, candidate or issue, including ballot issues of any kind, shall not be approved for distribution, with the exception of those pertaining to District levies, bond issues and Board campaigns. Exceptions may be granted by the Board for issues that directly affect Hilliard City Schools. These exceptions must have Board resolution.

[Adoption date: August 14, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: September 23, 2002]