

## Community Relations

### Distribution of Materials by Students (Use of Students)

Printed materials may be distributed to parents by students as an inexpensive means of mass communications. At the same time this procedure can prove objectionable to parents and the school district if overdone.

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

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

All requests from groups or individuals to have students distribute materials to people in the community will be referred to the office of the Superintendent to determine whether the requests comply with overall school purposes and policy.

### Use of Students

The Board prohibits the use of students during normal school hours in activities which are not part of the normal educational and planned curriculum process. Permission for use of students in activities of a non-educational nature must be obtained from the Superintendent or his/her designee who will ensure that the student's rights in terms of voluntary activities are maintained and that students are not exploited either knowingly or unknowingly.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall interpret this policy strictly. In case of differences of decision, the decision of the Superintendent will be final and may be made when, in their judgment, the best interests of the students will be served. In case of differences of opinion between them the decisions of the Superintendent will be final.

### Budget/Referendum Materials

Information concerning a budget or referendum, specifying only the time, date, location, and question or proposal may be disseminated through the students. 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.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
9-369b Explanatory text relating to local questions.

Policy adopted: July 16, 2007

EAST GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
East Granby, Connecticut

## Community Relations

### Distribution and Display of Printed or Written Matter

In the process of inquiry and learning, of acquiring and imparting knowledge, and of exchanging ideas, students should have the right to express opinions, to support causes and to announce positions on issues, publicly or privately. Concomitantly, the primary purpose of our schools is to assist in the educational and social development of all children.

To protect the rights of every member of our school communities and to ensure a climate in which meaningful learning may take place, the following regulations shall apply:

- A. No person shall distribute any printed or written matter on the grounds of any school or in any school building unless the distribution of such materials shall have prior approval of the school administration. In granting or denying approval, the following guidelines shall apply:
  1. No material shall be distributed, which, either by their content or by the manner of distribution itself, will interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the school, will cause violence or disorder, or will constitute an invasion of the rights of others.
  2. The school shall prohibit materials which is obscene according to then current legal definitions; which is libelous; or which is likely to inflame or to incite students so as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts or disruption of the orderly operation of the school. If any question arises about the definition of obscenity or libel, it will be referred to Town Counsel by the Superintendent of Schools.
  3. Distribution of Printed Material - Any person desiring to distribute handbills, leaflets, or other printed materials in the school must receive prior approval from the Superintendent or his/her designate. After presenting such materials the Superintendent will render a prompt decision regarding the distribution thereof. The following limitations apply:
    - a. The time of such activity shall be limited to periods before school begins and after dismissal.
    - b. The place of such activity shall be reasonably restricted to permit the normal flow of traffic within the school and at exterior doors.
    - c. The manner of conducting such activity shall be restricted to prevent undue levels of noise, or to prevent the use of coercion in obtaining signatures on petitions.
    - d. Identification shall be required on all printed matter distributed or circulated on school property.

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### **Distribution and Display of Printed or Written Matter**

- B. Bulletin Boards - School authorities may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards to school announcements. Ample bulletin board space shall be provided for the use of students and student organizations. The following general limitations on posting apply:
1. Identification shall be required of the individual or group issuing any posted notice and each notice will include that identification.
  2. The school shall require that notices or other communications be officially initialed and dated before posting and that such material be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.
- C. In imposing limitations on expression for any reason under any of the foregoing provisions, schools will ensure that these rules are applied on a non-discriminatory basis and in a manner designed to assure maximum freedom of expression. Any decision which has been made by the principal or his designate may be referred by the requesting individual to the Superintendent of Schools, and if necessary, to the Board of Education for a prompt reply.