

Sparta Area School District

Article – 622 – Distribution of Non-School Materials

The District shall allow limited distribution of non-school materials through the District and its schools in accordance with the provisions of this policy and its implementing rule.

This Policy and implementing rule concerning the distribution and posting of non-school materials creates an expressly limited forum for the distribution and posting of information through District websites and schools.

All non-school materials to be distributed in the schools shall be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee prior to distribution.

A. The School Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to allow non-profit community groups or organizations to distribute non-school materials through the schools if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The requestor is a tax-exempt entity (i.e., charitable, educational, registered non-profit, governmental, etc.) or non-income generating community group and not a self-employed individual/contractor/consultant or for-profit entity seeking to advertise or to recruit participants/customers in connection with the service activity or product offered by the person/entity. The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee may approve a proposed posting for distribution that relates to a community program/activity for school-age children that is primarily charitable in nature, but sponsored or underwritten by a for-profit individual/entity, provided that, in the judgement of the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, the program/activity is not most reasonably construed as an effort to advertise the actual service, activity or product that is offered for profit.

2. The material promotes educational or recreational programs, events or activities serving public school-age children.

3. The community program/activity does not violate the law.

4. The group or organization requesting material distribution in the schools follows District procedures for the distribution of non-school material.

5. The distribution of the non-school material does not involve the collection of funds, the taking of ticket orders, or the completion of forms to be returned to the school.

6. The distribution of the non-school material does not interfere with classroom instruction. Time, place and manner restrictions can be placed on the distribution of non-school materials to protect instructional time.

B. The following shall not be permitted or distributed in accordance with this policy:

1. The posting or distribution of political campaign literature.

2. Material that contradicts the District's mission or beliefs or is in conflict with Board policies.

3. Material that incites or encourages illegal behavior or violates state law.

4. Material that recruits current District students to attend or participate in a non-school-related program, activity or event that occurs during regular school hours during the school year.

5. Material that is primarily devoted to the promotion of commercial products or services.

6. Material that, if distributed to students, will substantially disrupt or materially interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the school or a school-sponsored activity.

C. This Policy and implementing rule do not apply to:

1. District-sponsored activities or school-related groups (i.e., parent-teacher groups or school specific partnerships) or paid advertisements.

2. Person, groups or agencies renting space pursuant to the District's Facility Use Policy when the information being distributed pertains only to those students in those schools (i.e., Girl Scouts).

In administering this policy, District officials shall not discriminate between non-school materials proposed for distribution on the basis of the viewpoint represented in the materials.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference: Article 603 – Use of Facilities

Adopted: August 23, 2016

Revised: