

# **POLICY**

## **Wayne Township Board of Education**

Section: Community  
9700. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS  
Date Created: October, 2009  
Date Edited: March, 2012

### **9700- SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

The Board of Education recognizes the contributions of persons and organizations outside the schools 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 pupils. 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 pupils; make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff and pupils 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 schools 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 pupils in the school district for any organization outside the school district. However, distribution of literature to or through pupils in the school district may be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee if the organization requesting the distribution of literature is a local, State, county or Federal governmental agency or a community, non-profit organization and the information is determined by the Superintendent or designee to be of special interest to school district pupils or the community. Written requests for the distribution of this literature must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee with one copy of the specific literature to be distributed. The approval and method of distribution of literature will be at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. Any approval for such distribution will be consistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. In no circumstance will the school

district release confidential pupil information. No staff member may distribute any materials on school property without prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools unless otherwise permitted by contract. Materials will clearly indicate their source. Non-school related materials will be plainly labeled, including an express disclaimer that the activity is “not a school sponsored activity.” Flyers and parental permission slips will be subject to the same review and standards.

All surveys, questionnaires or other similar items requiring pupil or parent/guardian response shall be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of Schools prior to distribution. The Superintendent of Schools shall solicit written permission from parents/guardians before students participate in surveys or research that requests personal information as set out in federal law.

The Board prohibits the distribution of political literature to or through the pupils 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 pupil 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 Board will permit the award of scholarships or prizes to deserving pupils provided that information regarding pupils is released only in accordance with Policy No. 8330 on Pupil Records, the manner of selection of the recipient is approved by the Superintendent or designee and includes consultation with appropriate staff members, the nature of the prize or award is approved by the Superintendent or designee.

#### Contests for Pupils

The Wayne Board of Education permits participation of pupils in contests approved by the Superintendent on a voluntary basis as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. The primary educational aims of the schools and the needs and interests of their pupils must be the first consideration at all times.

The following criteria shall pertain to the selection of educationally desirable contests:

1. On a national basis, the schools should confine their participation to those national contests which are currently placed on the approved list published annually by the Committee on National Contests and Activities of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
2. On a State and local basis, the contest or activity should be:
  - a. One that supplements and does not interfere with the regular school program;
  - b. One that is beneficial to youth in educational, civic, social, or ethical development;

- c. One that makes it possible for individual pupils to work out contributions by their own efforts and does not invite dishonest collaboration;
- d. One whose subject is not commercial, controversial, sectarian or concerned with propaganda. It must emphasize high moral standards, good citizenship, and intellectual competence;
- e. One from which no contestant should be excluded because of race, color, creed, or payment of entry fee;
- f. One which does not place an undue burden on pupils, teachers or the school, nor require frequent or lengthy absence of participants from the school;
- g. One sponsored by an organization engaged in a creditable or acceptable enterprise regardless of kind or amount of prizes offered and must not use the contest or activity as a "front" for advertising a company name or product.

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

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

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