

## **Community Relations**

### **Distribution of Materials to and by Students (Use of Students)**

The purpose of permitting the distribution of materials to and by students is to provide a convenient and inexpensive method to notify students and parents of extra-curricular activities of a general interest to students in the school district. At the same time this courtesy to the school community has the potential to interfere with the efficient operation of the school district and distract from instructional activities. The Board of Education reserves the right to refuse distribution of any material to the students of the district by individuals or groups not affiliated with the New Milford Public Schools. The Superintendent of Schools (or designee) shall impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the distribution of materials to prevent disruption and preserve the educational focus of the schools.

### **Distribution of Materials at Central Locations in the Schools**

Members of the school and local community may request approval to distribute non-curricular materials during non-instructional time at central locations in the schools. Such materials must be pre-approved by the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) and shall comply with the following standards:

1. The materials must relate to youth-oriented activities or events during the school year (e.g., sports, recreational, social or civic activities) of the public schools, parent teacher organizations, town, or other local, non-profit organizations.
2. The materials must explicitly identify the organization(s) distributing the materials and all sources of information contained in the publication.
3. The materials are not in violation of the law or any Board policy and do not encourage violation of the law or any Board policy.

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that students are made aware that the materials that are approved for distribution are not necessarily endorsed or sponsored by the school district.

### **Distribution of Materials Directly to Students**

Any distribution of materials to students directly (e.g., flyers given to students in the classroom to be brought home to parents/guardians) shall be limited to those materials that relate to youth-oriented activities or events sponsored by the public schools, parent teacher organizations, the Town of New Milford or the State of Connecticut. Such materials must be pre-approved by the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) and comport with Board policy and applicable law.

All requests from non-school connected 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.

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Requests for student distribution of materials relating to events within an individual school shall be subject to review and approval by the school administrator and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

#### **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 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 designee) shall interpret this policy strictly; the decisions of the Superintendent will be final.

#### **Budget/Referendum Materials**

After the date is set for the budget referendum, information concerning a pending referendum, specifying only the time, date, location, and question or proposal to be voted upon may be disseminated through the students. This information may not contain any other information or statements, or be written in a manner which may advocate a position on the referendum question.

#### **Legal Reference:**

Connecticut General Statutes

9-369b Explanatory text relating to local questions.

Policy adopted: May 7, 2001  
Policy revised: June 9, 2009  
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut