

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF

The Long Hill Township Board of Education (BOE) directs that material being sent home with students must relate to school matters or student-related community activities. Except when it pertains to the individual student, all such material must be approved in advance by the Chief School Administrator (CSA) or designee.

There is no district obligation to distribute or post any community group materials. If a forum is opened up to any category of group (i.e., non-profit, non-partisan, community groups), the CSA will not discriminate against speech or materials on the basis of its viewpoint or religious content.

The determination of the CSA will be viewpoint-neutral in order to provide equal access to “limited public forums” including bulletin boards for notices, tables at back-to-school nights, or hand-outs to students.

Students shall not be used to distribute partisan materials or partisan information pertaining to a school or general election, budget or bond issue, or negotiations. Students shall not be exploited for the benefit of any individual, group, profit-making or non-profit organization.

No staff member may distribute any materials on school property without prior approval of the CSA. 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 student or parent/guardian response shall be reviewed and approved by the CSA prior to distribution. The CSA shall solicit written permission from parents/guardians before students participate in surveys or research that requests personal information as set forth in state and federal law.

First reading: November 28, 2011

Second reading: December 12, 2011

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34	Written approval required prior to acquisition of certain survey information from students
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4	Distribution of literature as to candidacy, bond issues, or other public question to be submitted at election; prohibited
N.J.S.A. 19:34-6	Obstructing or interfering with polling place or voter
N.J.S.A. 19:34-15	Electioneering within or about polling place; misdemeanor

34 CFR 98.1 – Pupil Protection Rights Amendment

Child Evangelism Fellowship of New Jersey vs. Stafford Township School District, No. 03-1101 (October 2004)

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

Possible Cross References:

*1100	Communicating with the Public
*1322	Contests for Pupils
*1330	Use of School Facilities
*6142.10	Technology
*6145.3	Publications
6162.5	Research

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.