

Regulation

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF

The Alloway Township Board of Education recognizes that each student has the right of free speech and free press under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

In order to ensure the responsible distribution of materials and protect the right of free speech and free press, the following guidelines shall apply to students publishing and distributing newspapers, magazines, petitions, leaflets and other written materials which are not official school publications.

Acceptable Materials

Acceptable materials are any publication or distribution that is approved by the superintendent or his or her designee (see board policy and regulation 6145.3 Student Publications).

Unacceptable Materials

Unacceptable materials include but are not limited to:

- A. "Hate" literature that attacks ethnic, religious and racial groups, other irresponsible publications aimed at creating hostility and violence, pornography and similar materials are not suitable for distribution in the schools." [From a decision of the Commissioner of Education in Goodman vs. Board of Education, June 18, 1969, p.3]
- B. Materials denigrating to specific individuals in or out of the school;
- C. Materials designed for commercial purposes to advertise a product or service for sale or rent and materials that are designed to solicit funds, unless approved by the superintendent;
- D. "Literature which in any manner and in any part thereof promotes, favors or opposes the candidacy of any candidate for election at any annual school elections, or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or any questions submitted at any general municipal or school election..." [Decision of the New Jersey Commissioner of Education in Goodman vs. Board of Education, June 18, 1969, p.3]

Procedures

A. Identification

All materials submitted for approval must identify the author, editor and publisher.

B. Approved Materials

Materials must be submitted to the superintendent or his or her designee for approval a minimum of one school day prior to the anticipated distribution. For potentially controversial materials not readily classifiable or approvable, more than one day but not more than five (5) schools days should be allowed.

C. Places of Distribution

Acceptable materials (newspapers, magazines, petitions, leaflets), which have been approved, may be distributed on the schools' sidewalks in front of main entrances to the building. In case of bad weather, two students only will be permitted in front of the main lobby. Specific approval to distribute material inside the

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school must be obtained from the superintendent on each occasion. Distribution may be by students enrolled in the specific school in front of which material is being distributed.

D. Times for Distribution

Distribution of approved literature must be restricted to the following time periods unless a more definite time is designated by the principal;

1. Fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of the school day (first class);
2. Fifteen minutes after the school day ends (last class).

E. Littering

All distributed materials, which are dropped in the immediate area on sidewalks to the street, inside lobbies and down adjacent corridors must be removed by persons distributing material.

F. Appeal

Students denied approval may appeal to the superintendent who, with a student representative from each class, will review the matter. Should the petition be denied, the petitioner may still appeal to the board of education.

The student council president in consultation with the superintendent shall appoint student representatives.

Adopted:	March 27, 2001
Revised:	December 16, 2003
NJSBA Review/Update:	February 2020
Readopted:	