

For Distribution to CCSU Schools
October 3, 2007

Re: Clarification on Non-School Originated Postings and Flyer Distribution

Effective Immediately

From the 2007-08 CCSU Parent-Student Handbook (p.22): ***“Posters, announcements, and/or displays may be exhibited in the school for school-related events. Distribution of non-school related materials is prohibited.”***

Note: This practice reflects a change for schools this year, and is responsive to parents’ concerns and the interests of students about the volume of non-school originated materials sent home with students in recent years.

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Definitions

- 1) This standard does not address student generated materials, whether developed in or out of school.
- 2) “Non-school materials” are any printed or other media materials meant for general distribution to others or for posting which are not prepared as part of the curricular or extracurricular program of the district. This includes such things as flyers, invitations, announcements, pamphlets, posters, Internet bulletin boards, personal web sites and the like.
- 3) “Distribution” means the dissemination of non-school written materials to others on school property or during school-sponsored events; placing upon desks, on or in lockers; or engaging in any other manner of delivery of non-school written materials to others while on school property or during school functions. When e-mail, text messaging or other technological delivery is used as a means of distributing or accessing non-school written materials via use of school equipment or while on school property or at school functions, it shall be governed by this standard. Off-campus or after hours distribution, including technological distribution, brought to the attention of the district, which does or is likely to materially or substantially interfere with school activities, school work, or discipline and order on school property or at school functions is also covered by this standard.\
- 4) “Posting” refers to publicly displaying non-school written materials on school property or at school-sponsored events, including but not limited to affixing such materials to walls, doors, bulletin boards, easels, the outside of lockers,

on district-sponsored or student web sites, through other district-owned technology and the like.

- 5) “School related” pertains to age appropriate opportunities, activities, and programs which may be of benefit to the school, the schools’ students, or school families.

Standard

Posting: Each school principal (or director) will establish a designated area (i.e., table, bulletin board, counter, wall space, etc.) for posting of approved non-school materials. No materials will be posted without the pre-approval of the principal. Principals have the discretion to reject the posting of any material not found to be in the interest of the school, the school’s students, or school families.

Distribution:

1. Print or other media that are produced for curricular or extra-curricular purposes or that are school-originated materials (including Essex Junction Recreation and Parks) may be directly disseminated to students.
2. Non-school materials, if approved by the Principal consistent with these standards, may be made available for pick up by students, parents, or citizens at school, but will not be directly disseminated to students.

Controls

Principals shall develop methods for pre-approval before any posting or distribution occurs. These practices may include dating postings, retiring postings on a schedule, limiting common posting or distribution areas, and managing all distributions (either through the above direct or indirect methods).

Limitations

Unprotected expressions are cause for refusing postings or disseminations. Unprotected expressions include those which may violate the rights of others, or where such expression is likely to or does materially or substantially interfere with school activities, school work, or discipline and order on school property or at school functions. Such unprotected expressions include those which

1. Libel any specific person or persons.
2. Advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material that may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health or welfare of students.

3. Use obscene, lewd, vulgar or profane language, whether verbal, written or symbolic.
4. Incite violence; advocate use of force; or urge violation of federal, state or municipal law, board policy or district procedures and rules.
5. Are likely to or do materially or substantially interfere with school activities, school work, or discipline and order on school property or at school functions.