

9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- A. Any requests from local civic institutions or special interest groups which involve such activities as patriotic functions, contests, exhibits, sales of products to and by students, sending promotional materials home with students, graduation prizes, fund raising, and free teaching materials must be carefully reviewed to ensure that on balance such activities promote student interests without advancing the special interest of any particular group.
- B. It is the policy of the Board of Education that students, staff members, and district facilities not be used for advertising or promoting the interests of any non-school agency or organization, public or private, without the approval of the Board or the Superintendent, or his/her designee, as its delegated representative; and, any such approval granted for whatever cause or group shall not be construed as an endorsement of said cause or group by this Board.
- C. All flyers that advertise activities proposed by outside sources for student or staff use or participation shall be reviewed by the Superintendent, or his/her designee, on the basis of the criteria below:
1. Flyers from non-profit organizations advertising participation opportunities that would benefit students of the Howell Township Public Schools may be approved.
 2. Flyers that involve fundraising may be approved if the proceeds benefit:
 - a. Charitable organizations (non-profit organizations that center on philanthropic goals as well as social well-being)
 - b. Organizations affiliated with Howell Township Board Of Education, including but not limited to:
 - Howell Township Education Foundation
 - PTAs/PTOs/Special Education Parent Advisory Council
 - Police Athletic League
 - Freehold Regional High School District
 - c. Organizations where the proceeds are directly deposited into a Howell Township School's student activities fund
 - d. Howell (resident) students' (K-12) charitable or civic minded projects



- D. The Board recognizes that student, staff, or organization initiated fundraisers (organizations affiliated with the Howell Township Board of Education - C2b above) may benefit individual students, charities, or the district as a whole, and should be given our consideration. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, will make the decision.

Participation in such special activities may not:

1. Have the primary effect of advancing a special product, group or company;
 2. Make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff or students or upon the resources of the district;
 3. Involve any direct cost to the district; or
 4. Interrupt the regular school program.
- E. Requests from charitable or for profit organizations not described in “D” above for contests in which children are used to solicit funds will be denied. This would include Bike-A-Thons, Walk-A-Thons, Read-A-Thons, etc. Although the Board recognizes the worth of these organizations, it does not believe that this type of activity is the responsibility of the school district. The questions of safety and the liability of the Board while the students are in pursuit of contributions are of grave concern.
- F. Outside organizations or staff members are not permitted to solicit funds on school property.
- G. The names, addresses, or telephone numbers of students may not be released to any special interest group without the permission of the Principal and student’s parent.

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

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

Adopted: 03 January 2013
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