

**DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION AND MATERIALS
TO STUDENTS***Adoption Date:* 11/09/04*Revision
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It is the policy of the Welch Board of Education that school personnel and school facilities may not be used in any manner for advertising, selling, fundraising, or promoting the matters of any non-school agency, organization, or individual without the prior written/verbal approval of the superintendent or designee. Requests by non-school individuals or groups to distribute pamphlets, booklets, flyers, brochures, and other similar materials to students for classroom use, other use, or to take home must be submitted to the Superintendent's or designee's office. The materials and proposed method of distribution shall be subject to review based upon legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns shall include whether the material: (1) may be defamatory; (2) is poorly written, inadequately researched, biased, or prejudiced; (3) concerns information that is not factual; (4) is not free of racial, ethnic, or sexual bias; (5) concerns advertising that violated public school laws, rules, or policy; (6) is deemed inappropriate for students; or (7) might reasonably be perceived by the public to bear the sanction or approval of the district. Written materials that are obscene, libelous, vulgar, lewd, indecent, profane, or promoting illegal behavior may not be distributed.

The Superintendent or designee will determine whether acceptance of the material will contribute in a meaningful way to the educational program of the school. The educational program of the school is understood to include instruction, extracurricular activities, athletics, assemblies, and similar activities carried out by the school.

The administration shall determine distribution procedures. Such procedures shall include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) distribution to each student during non-instructional time if materials are not directly related to the instructional goals; (2) notification to students or parents of the availability of materials in a specified location if this procedure is deemed less disruptive to the educational process; and (3) solicitation of school-related groups such as parent organizations to distribute materials. Individuals who distribute written materials will be responsible for removing discarded and leftover materials from school grounds in a timely fashion.

Announcements of events sponsored by non-school groups must meet the criteria listed above and, if approved, may be distributed or posted in a central area within the school. The district will cooperate with non-profit community organizations that have worthwhile activities for children. With the approval of the Superintendent or designee, printed announcements of such activities may be distributed for those community activities that could broaden the educational experience of children.

Commercial materials shall not be distributed through the school unless they are of benefit to the overall educational program of the school and are approved by the superintendent. These materials include, but are not limited to, equipment, supplies, printed matter, logos, slogans, trademarks, symbols, and programs which are recognizable as representing a commercial firm, product, or service.

Current judicial decisions hold that public school students have a constitutional right to distribute written materials in school facilities, subject to reasonable regulation by school authorities of the time, place, and manner of distribution and subject to certain restrictions concerning to content of the material. The purpose of this policy is to provide for the exercise of this right and to inform Welch Public School students of the conditions deemed by the Welch Board of Education to be essential to prevent interference with the district mission of providing educational services to all students. Students may distribute written materials during non-instructional times in areas other than the classrooms. The distribution of written material shall not be restricted or denied solely on the basis of political, religious, or philosophical content. Students should refrain from distribution of material which may identified in the following categories: (1) obscene to minors; (2) libelous, vulgar, lewd, or indecent; (3) a display of unlawful acts or products; or (4) defamatory to any group on the basis of race, religious affiliation, ethnic or national origin, gender identity preference or handicapping condition.

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Students shall not distribute written materials in a manner which disrupts a school activity or which impedes the flow of traffic within hallways or entranceways. No person shall be compelled to accept any written material. A person who declines to accept written material will not be threatened, treated with disrespect, or imposed upon in any manner. Students who distribute written materials are responsible for removing discarded or leftover materials from school grounds.

Students may, but are not required to, submit materials to the Superintendent or designee in advance of distribution. If submitted prior to distribution, the student will be notified if the material falls into one or more of the categories of prohibited materials mentioned above. Whether the materials have been submitted for review in advance of distribution or not, students who select to distribute prohibited written material will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension. If a student is suspended for violation of this policy, the student may appeal the suspension in accordance with school district suspension procedures. In permitting the distribution of written materials by students the school district and the Board are not approving, accepting, endorsing, supporting, or advocating the content of the material.

This policy does not apply to official school publications such as yearbooks, student newspapers, or material published as a part of school curricula.