

## CURRITUCK COUNTY SCHOOLS NEW POLICY MANUAL

### Section 5000 - Community Relationships

#### Policy Code: 5210 Distribution and Display of Non-School Material

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### C. DISTRIBUTION AND DISPLAY STANDARDS FOR NON-SCHOOL MATERIALS

School officials shall apply the following standards to approve the distribution or display of all non-school material on school property:

1. While materials will not be screened for viewpoint, the reviewer shall prohibit the distribution or display of any publication or material that (a) is vulgar, indecent or obscene; (b) contains libelous statements, personal attacks or abusive language such as language defaming a person's character, race, religion, ethnic origin, gender, family status, or disability; (c) causes or clearly threatens to cause a material and substantial disruption of a school activity; (d) encourages the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school regulations; (e) is inappropriate considering the age of the students in the school; (f) contains information that is inaccurate, misleading or false; or (g) advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law.

The [principal or superintendent's designee, depending on who makes the initial decision] shall notify the superintendent before approving or prohibiting distribution or display of any publications or materials that raise a question as to whether a specific action by school officials might violate the Establishment of Religion Clause, the Free Exercise of Religion Clause, or the free speech rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The superintendent shall consult with the board attorney to determine the legally appropriate course of action.

2. The distribution of non-school material must not interfere with instructional time.
3. Non-school publications and materials distributed or displayed to students must be clearly identified, through the method of distribution or otherwise, as non-school materials that are neither endorsed nor necessarily reflective of the views of the school board or the school system.
- 4. In order to minimize disruption to the learning environment, political campaign materials may not be distributed to students or employees (including through employee mailboxes and e-mail) or made available on school grounds during school time or at school events. However, on election days, posters and printed materials are permitted at school buildings used as polling places in accordance with state law and board of elections requirements.**

This provision does not prohibit a teacher from using political literature or campaign material for instructional purposes. However, any teacher using these materials for instructional purposes shall not use his or her position to promote a particular candidate, party or position on a specific issue. The teacher also shall attempt to use a variety of materials that represent balanced and diverse viewpoints on the political spectrum.