

DISTRIBUTION OR SOLICITATION OF INFORMATION IN SCHOOLS

I. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Talbot County recognizes that collaboration with the broader community is critical to the achievement of the school system's mission and goals. Therefore, as a service to the community, the Board allows distribution of information to and through students. The Board also recognizes the responsibility of the school system to provide a learning environment free from disruption. In this regard, it is the intent of the Board of Education to designate appropriate materials for display and distribution. Approval to disseminate or display materials in one or more Talbot County public schools does not imply Board or school system endorsement of the organization or the information it disseminates. It is the Board's intention that the use of school time, personnel and resources to accommodate this service should be kept to a minimum.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to inform the public and staff about criteria for posting or distributing informational materials and announcements in schools, including but not limited to, information sent home to or through students; information on community display tables, racks or bulletin boards; and information made available at back-to-school nights, open houses or other school-related activities.

III. Standard

Public agencies or non-profit service organizations may request permission to distribute free printed material (e.g., announcements or flyers) on a countywide or regional basis through the Superintendent's Office. Such material must bear the sponsoring organization's name.

IV. Compliance

A. The Superintendent's Office shall ensure that all community organizations approved to disseminate information in schools comply with this policy and related procedures.

B. Violations of this policy and the associated procedures are subject to the following consequences:

1. Confiscation of the material.
2. Criminal prosecution of non-students for trespass.

V. Delegation of Authority

The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures for the implementation of this policy.

VI. References

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Section 4-205 Child Evangelism Fellowship of Md. v. Montgomery County Public Schools, 373