COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Distribution of Materials and Communications in the Schools by Outside Sources

Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) school facilities, property, and publications are not open, limited, or other public forums for the expression of views by the public, and are only accessible to non-school persons and groups under the terms, conditions, and restrictions set forth in applicable School Board policies and regulations.

It is the intention of the Prince William County School Board to minimize intrusions and avoid disruption to the instructional process and the operation of the schools arising out of the distribution of materials and communications from outside sources. All materials or communications, written or electronic, which are distributed or posted in school facilities and/or on school property by outside sources, must be approved prior to distribution or posting. Such materials and communications must advance the educational mission of PWCS, either directly, or by providing students and/or parents/guardians with information relating to educational, athletic, civic or community opportunities and activities which support the education of PWCS students.

The Prince William County School Board has authorized the Superintendent of Schools to develop and implement regulations and procedures governing the distribution and posting of materials in school facilities or on school property by outside sources. Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the distribution and posting of materials may be imposed by the Superintendent of Schools, or designees, in order to avoid disruption to the educational process and school operations, and to minimize the use of administrative and financial resources. Any access to school facilities or school property for the purpose of distributing or posting informational materials or other communications shall be provided on a non-discriminatory basis and not upon the viewpoint of the requestor.

Approval will not be given for the distribution or posting of materials which:

1. Are reasonably likely to cause substantial disruption to, or a material interference with, the educational process or school operations;
2. Endorse or encourage the use of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substance or activity;
3. Endorse or encourage any violation of the PWCS “Code of Behavior”;
4. Conflict with the PWCS curriculum or the educational mission of the School Division; or
5. Are lewd, indecent, vulgar, sexually explicit, obscene, pornographic, patently offensive, defamatory, or age/subject matter inappropriate for students.
Materials or communications endorsing or advertising a commercial product, service, or endeavor, shall not be distributed or posted, except as provided in Policy 923 and Regulation 923-1, “Commercial Advertising”; Policy 295, “Standards for Use of Telecommunications and Internet Technologies”; Regulation 295-1, “Computer Systems and Network Services – PWCS Responsible Use and Internet Safety Policy”; Regulation 950.01-1, “Public and Private Partnerships with the School Division”; and Regulation 951-2, “Booster Clubs and Other Approved Parent Groups.”

Materials of a partisan political nature shall not be distributed or posted, in conformance with Virginia Code § 22.1-79.3(A), and PWCS Policies 273.01, “Political Activities” and 503.02, “Participation of Staff in Community Life: Politics.”

Regulation 925-1, “Distribution of Materials and Communications in the Schools by Outside Sources,” implements this policy.

The Associate Superintendent for Communications and Technology Services (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy.

The Associate Superintendent for Communications and Technology Services (or designee) is responsible for reviewing this policy in 2018.


Adopted: May 18, 1988
Reviewed/Revised: February 11, 2015

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD