

DISTRIBUTION AND DISPLAY OF MATERIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FILE: KJB

Purpose

To inform the public and staff about displaying and distributing printed and electronic informational materials and announcements.

Definitions

Business – an organization operating for profit, whether or not incorporated in the State of Maryland.

Community organization – a group operating for the purpose of providing a service to the community but that is not a nonprofit community organization.

Distribution and Display – The mass delivery of information to students or staff on school property or by display or use of electronic media including the ACPS internal mail, telecasts and email system.

Limited Public Forum– Public property which is not by tradition or designation a forum for public communication, but for which the ACPS has purposefully opened to the public or some segment of the public for expressive activity.

Nonprofit community organization – Organizations operating in Allegany County that provide documentation of tax exempt status under Section 501(c) (3) nonprofit status or a copy of a notarized letter on the organization's letterhead stating that the organization is a nonprofit organization.

School property – Any property owned or leased by the Allegany County Public School System. In addition, the concept of property shall extend to school activities such as field trips, use of parks and recreation facilities, proms at hotels, etc. This means that when a facility is scheduled by the school system for student use, it will be considered an extension of school property.

Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Allegany County recognizes the need to provide an appropriate mechanism for informing students and parents and staff about school and community activities and events in a manner that does not unduly burden school staff. The Board 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 maintain a limited public forum by designating appropriate materials for display and distribution at specified times and places. Mass use of the email distribution system for solicitation shall be restricted to recognized school purposes. Approval to disseminate or display materials in one or more 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 be kept to a minimum.

Legal Reference			
Policy History	Adopted	Reviewed	Revised Aug. 11, 2009, 1 st Reading Sept. 8, 2009, 2 nd Reading June 9, 2015, 1 st Reading July 14, 2015, 2 nd Reading