

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: CNA-RA, JFA-RA, KEA, KEA-RA

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Informational Material and Announcements

A. PURPOSE

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

B. ISSUE

To provide an appropriate mechanism for informing students and parents about school and community activities and events in a manner that does not unduly burden school staff

C. POSITION

1. Display and distribution of printed materials by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), governmental agencies, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA)s, and certain parent teacher organizations

The following organizations shall be permitted to distribute printed informational materials and announcements directly to students through take-home folders, backpacks, or similar manner or display printed informational materials and announcements on any tables, magazine racks, or similar areas as designated by the school at any time during the school year:

- a) MCPS;
- b) Federal, state, or local governmental entities;
- c) Nationally affiliated PTAs operating within MCPS and Montgomery County Council of PTAs; and
- d) Parent teacher organizations at special education schools and alternative centers that operate in lieu of nationally affiliated PTAs.

2. Display and Distribution of Printed Materials Provided by Others

- a) Other nonprofit community organizations are only permitted to directly distribute materials to elementary school students. Such distribution may take place through take-home folders, backpacks, or similar manner. Schools shall provide opportunity for distribution at least twice a year and no more than once during each marking period. However, in accordance with Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) Policy KEA, *Political Campaigns and Political Materials*, such direct distribution methods may not be used to distribute materials that advocate the passage or defeat of any ballot or referendum question or advocate the passage or defeat of any matter pending before a local governing body, the Maryland General Assembly, or the Congress of the United States.
- b) Community organizations or businesses shall be permitted to display, at any time during the school year, printed informational materials and announcements on tables, magazine racks, or similar areas designated by elementary, middle, or high schools.
- c) Materials provided for distribution or display by organizations or businesses shall include the disclaimer, "These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent of schools, or this school."

D. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The superintendent of schools will develop reasonable viewpoint-neutral regulations to implement this policy.

E. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 173-74, April 2, 1974; reformatted by Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, and accepted by Resolution No. 209-91, February 25, 1991; amended by Resolution No. 459-04, July 29, 2004; amended by Resolution No. 428-06, August 30, 2006; amended by Resolution No. 333-12, June 25, 2012.