

**Section 10-6.1. Minimal intrusions; communications must be carefully reviewed; no approval for certain materials; superintendent to establish regulations; political communications; not to prohibit issue-oriented materials for classroom discussions.**

A. The School Board seeks to minimize intrusions on the time of students and employees by communications from sources other than the school division. Approval must be obtained from the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, before any materials may be distributed or made available at the request of non-school organizations. Approval will be granted only for materials from governmental organizations and nonprofit community organizations regarding activities related to the educational mission of Suffolk Public Schools.

B. Communications to parents, guardians, and other citizens not directly related to Suffolk Public Schools and (i) sent home by students; or (ii) made available to citizens electronically on a school's webpage; or (iii) mailed directly to parents electronically are provided for informational purposes only and there is no endorsement whatsoever by Suffolk Public Schools or the School Board of any activity, agency or programmed referred to in communication. Nevertheless, all such communications shall be carefully reviewed before permission is granted for their distribution, electronic mailing, and/or posting electronically.

C. Approval will not be given for materials which

- (1) are likely to cause substantial disruption of, or a material interference with, school activities;
- (2) endorse or encourage the use or sale of guns, alcohol, tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, or any illegal substance or action;
- (3) endorse or encourage any violation of the Standards of Student Conduct (see Chapter 9, Article 11 – Student Conduct); or
- (4) are obscene, pornographic, or defamatory.

Materials from nonprofit community organizations approved for distribution must clearly indicate their source and must include the following statement: "These materials and the activity described herein, are not sponsored or endorsed by the Suffolk City School Board."

D. The superintendent, by regulation, will establish the time, place, and manner of distribution of approved materials. No distribution will be permitted during class time.

E. Students shall not be required to convey or deliver any material that advocates:

- (1) the election or defeat of any candidate;
- (2) the passage or defeat of any referendum question or
- (3) the passage or defeat of any matter pending before a local school board, local governing body, the General Assembly or Congress.

F. The principals and the superintendent of schools are urged to interpret this policy strictly. Each principal is to review carefully requests to distribute materials, pamphlets, notices and other communications, direct mailing of materials electronically, or the electronic posting of materials on a school's web page and if in doubt shall seek the permission from the superintendent of schools or his designated agent. If doubt exist at the superintendent level as to whether distribution should be made, permission shall be denied until disposition of the matter is made by the School Board.

G. This Policy shall not be construed to prohibit the discussion or use of political or issue-oriented materials as part of classroom discussions or projects. (Adopted January 1, 2001; Ordinance Number 00/01-08; Effective July 1, 2001; Revised December 11,

2015; Ordinance Number 15/16-3; Effective: December 11, 2015; Ordinance Number 19/20-64; Revised March 20, 2020)

**Legal Authority** - Virginia Code §22.1-78 (1950), as amended.