

SECTION K: SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

KA	School-Community Relations Goals
KBA	Public's Right to Know
KBCA	News Releases
KBCD	Broadcasting and Taping of Board Meetings (Also BDDJ)
KBE	Tax Issues (Also FD)
KC	Community Involvement in Decision Making (Also ABA)
KD	Public Participation at Board Meetings (Also BDDH)
KF	Community Instructional Resources (Also IIC)
KG	Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KGB	Public Conduct on District Property
KGC	Smoking on District Property
KH	Public Gifts to the District
KI	Public Solicitations in the Schools
KJ	Advertising in the Schools
KJA	Distribution of Materials in the Schools
KK	Visitors to the Schools
KKA	Recruiters in the Schools
KL	Public Complaints
KLB	Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
KLD	Public Complaints About District Personnel
KMA	Relations with Parent Organizations
KMB	Relations with Booster Organizations

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

Staff members have a responsibility to promote good school-community relations. The school-community relations program is directed by the Superintendent and is based upon the following principles.

1. The school-community relations program is a systematic, two-way process of communications between the District and the community.
2. The District may use media sources and other forms of communications available to effectively communicate with the citizens and employees.
3. Communications with the public should promote involvement, objective appraisal and support.
4. Communications should be internal as well as external and provide factual, objective and realistic data.
5. School communications should be responsive both to events as they arise and to evaluations of the process.

[Adoption date: March 14, 1988]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives
AFA, Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures (Also BK)
KBA, Public's Right to Know

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The Board supports the right of the people to know about the programs and services of their schools and makes efforts to disseminate appropriate information. Each building principal is authorized and expected to keep the school's community informed about the school's programs and activities. The release of information of Districtwide interest is coordinated by the Superintendent.

Business of the Board is discussed and decisions are made at public meetings of the Board, except such matters required to be discussed in private executive sessions.

The official minutes of the Board, its written policies, its financial records and all other public records are open for inspection in the central office during the hours when the administrative offices are open.

Each Board member attends public records training every term for which he/she is elected to public office. However, the Board may, by resolution, designate one or more persons to attend public records training on its behalf. If so decided, the Board appoints a designee whenever the composition of the Board changes.

The District may ask that the identity of an individual requesting information and the reason the information is sought be in writing. The District first informs the requester that such disclosure is not mandatory, unless the request is for student directory information. The District also informs the requester that providing such information in writing enhances the District's ability to identify, locate or deliver the records sought. The District may also ask that the request be put in writing, but notifies the requester that it is not mandatory to do so.

Any individual who wants to obtain or inspect a copy of a public record may request to have the record duplicated on paper, on the same medium on which the record is kept or on any other medium that the Superintendent/designee determines reasonable. If the request is ambiguous or overly broad, the District informs the requester of the manner in which records are maintained and accessed in the ordinary course of business and allows the requester to revise the request.

Records pertaining to individual students and other confidential materials are not released for inspection. Only that information deemed "directory information" may be released from an individual student's file, and only after complying with the regulations prepared by the administration for the release of such information. Student directory information is not released for profit-making purposes or when parents have affirmatively withdrawn their consent to release in writing. Student records that consist of "personally identifiable information" generally are exempt from disclosure.

All records responsive to the request are made available in a reasonable period of time. The District makes the requester aware of any information that is exempt from disclosure requirements by notifying the requester of any redacted information or by making redactions in a plainly visible manner. If a public records request is denied, the District provides an explanation with legal authority for the denial of the request. This explanation is provided in writing if the request is made in writing or if the Superintendent/designee determines written explanation is necessary.

The Superintendent/designee transmits the information sought by mail or by any other means of delivery requested, if the method is reasonably available. The number of requests physically sent by mail or another delivery service to any one person may be limited to 10 a month unless the person certifies, in writing, that neither the records nor the information in them will be used for commercial purposes. If the District provides public records on a free and accessible website the number of requests delivered in a digital format to any one person may be limited to 10 a month unless the records requested are not provided on the website and the person certifies, in writing, that neither the records nor the information in them will be used for commercial purposes.

A fee may be charged for copies and/or delivery. The District may require the fee charged for copies and/or delivery be paid in advance.

The Board's public records policy is posted in a conspicuous location in the central office and in all other District buildings and employee handbooks provided by the District. The policy is distributed directly to the records custodian and receipt of the policy by the custodian is acknowledged. A copy of the records retention schedule is maintained and readily available to the public in the central office.

[Adoption date: March 14, 1988]
[Re-adoption date: April 28, 2003]
[Re-adoption date: March 26, 2007]
[Re-adoption date: September 24, 2007]
[Re-adoption date: November 19, 2007]
[Re-adoption date: June 24, 2013]
[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]
[Re-adoption date: August 25, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC, Section 1232g
ORC 121.22
149.011; 149.35; 149.381; 149.41; 149.43
3319.321
OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: BDC, Executive Sessions
BDDG, Minutes
EHA, Data and Records Retention
GBL, Personnel Records
GBS, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
JO, Student Records
KA, School-Community Relations Goals
KKA, Recruiters in the Schools

2 of 2

NEWS RELEASES

The District is a public institution endeavoring to serve the educational needs of the community. It is important that information be disseminated concerning school activities and issues. The Superintendent develops procedures to provide wide coverage and to coordinate publicity that enhances the image of the District.

[Adoption date: March 14, 1988]

[Re-adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: BCB, Board Officers

NEWS RELEASES

The procedures regarding news releases are as follows.

1. The Board President is the official spokesperson for the Board, except as this duty is delegated to the Superintendent or another Board member.
2. News releases that are of a Districtwide nature or pertain to established Board policy are the responsibility of the Superintendent or a designated member of the administrative staff.
3. News releases that are of concern to only one school, or to an organization of one school, are the responsibility of the principal of that particular school.
4. The Board expects the administration to maintain a vital and effective link with the media sources of the community. This includes a variety of forms and forums. This effort is directed by the Board President or his/her designee.

(Approval date: June 25, 2001)

(Re-approval date: March 10, 2016)

BROADCASTING AND TAPING OF BOARD MEETINGS

Photographic and electronic audio and video broadcasting and recording devices may be used at regular and special Board meetings legally open to the public according to the following guidelines.

1. Persons interested in taking photographs, broadcasting or recording board meetings should notify the Board of their interest in so.
2. Persons operating cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices must do so with a minimum of disruption to those present at the meeting. Specifically, the view between Board members and the audience must not be obstructed, interviews must not be conducted during the meeting and no commentary is to be given in a manner that distracts Board members or the audience.
3. The Board has the right to halt any recording that interrupts or disturbs the meeting.

The Board may make the necessary arrangements to make audio and/or video recordings of all regular meetings and any special meeting that it deems appropriate.

[Adoption date: March 14, 1988]

[Re-adoption date: August 28, 2000]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: December 18, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I
ORC 121.22
2911.21
2917.12
2921.31
3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: BD, School Board Meetings
BDDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings (Also KD)

TAX ISSUES

The Board examines financial needs in advance of any levy or bond elections. The Board provides the public with information on school building needs and on levy and bond elections. It does not use District funds to promote approval of school-related tax issues.

Tax reduction factors are considered in coordination with the Sexennial Reappraisal and/or the Triennial Update in affected District counties. In considering a potential tax issue, the Board examines all legal options to obtain additional revenue.

[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: Ohio Const. Art XII, Sections 2, 5
ORC Chapter 133
319.301
3311.21
3313.37; 3313.375
3315.07
3501.01
Chapter 5705
Chapter 5713
5715.33
5748.01 et seq.
OAC 5703-25-45 through 5703-25-49

CROSS REFS.: BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board
FL, Retirement of Facilities

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Community participation in the schools is essential to promote and maintain the quality of education for all students.

In addition to electing fellow citizens to represent them on the Board, all citizens may express ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools to the administration, to the staff, to any appointed advisory bodies and ultimately to the Board. Ideas should be addressed to the responsible individual in an appropriate fashion.

Residents may be invited by the Board to act as advisers, individually and in groups, in such areas as:

1. clarifying general ideas and attitudes held by residents in regard to the schools;
2. assisting in developing Board policies under which the District is to be managed;
3. assisting in establishing administrative arrangements and regulations designed to help implement these policies;
4. determining the purposes of curriculum and special services to be provided for students;
5. evaluating the extent to which these purposes are being achieved by present policies and/or
6. studying a specific problem or set of closely related problems about which a decision must be made.

The Board gives consideration to the advice it receives from individuals and community groups. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AD, Development of Philosophy of Education
AFA, Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures (Also BK)
BCE, Board Committees
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board
BCFA, Business Advisory Council to the Board
FL, Retirement of Facilities
IF, Curriculum Development

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board and Board-appointed committees are open to the public.

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.

Agendas are available to all those who attend Board meetings. The section on the agenda for public participation shall be indicated. Noted at the bottom of each agenda shall be a short paragraph outlining the Board's policy on public participation at Board meetings.

[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3313.20

CROSS REFS.: BCE, Board Committees
BD, School Board Meetings
BDDDB, Agenda Format
BDDC, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
BG, Board-Staff Communications (Also GBD)

COMMUNITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Helping each student develop to his/her full potential and to become a citizen contributing to the welfare of the community are important objectives of the District's educational program. The Board encourages administrative and instructional personnel to rely on the community as one of its educational resources. The administration directs community instructional resources designed to involve the citizens, institutions and environment of our community in the education of its children.

The Superintendent has supervisory control over community relations, which includes school volunteer service. Members of the staff and of the community are encouraged to offer their ideas and services through the channels that the administration develops.

The Superintendent reports to the Board on the involvement and effectiveness of community relations.

[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: GBQ, Criminal Records Check
IICC, School Volunteers

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES
(Equal Access)

Although the basic purpose of public school premises is to provide the youth of the community a sound educational program, the complete function of education is not achieved until the school premises are made to serve the entire community. To accomplish this objective, when school premises are not in use for school purposes, the Board shall, upon payment of the prescribed fee and subject to the requirements of applicable regulations, permit the use of school premises for auxiliary, educational, recreational, cultural, civic, social, religious or other Board-approved purposes.

The District may rent or lease premises to a public or nonpublic university for use for evening and summer classes.

Any school within the District receiving Title I funding must offer the same premises access to Boy Scouts as to other organizations.

[Adoption date: March 14, 1988]
[Re-adoption date: January 26, 1998]
[Re-adoption date: September 23, 2002]
[Re-adoption date: November 20, 2006]
[Re-adoption date: November 23, 2009]
[Re-adoption date: June 27, 2011]
[Re-adoption date: December 15, 2011]
[Re-adoption date: December 18, 2014]
[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Title VIII, Section 801
ORC 3311.215
3313.75; 3313.76; 3313.77; 3313.78; 3313.79
4303.26

CROSS REFS.: KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES
(Equal Access)

The Board encourages the community use of school premises. It is necessary, however, to ensure that such use does not interfere with the regular school purposes, impose undue burden upon personnel or strain the limited funds allotted for building services and maintenance; therefore, specific regulations have been established.

Conditions Governing Use of School Premises

1. An employee of the Board must be on duty whenever a school building or school stadium is used by an organization or group.
2. No building is used for any fundraising activity unless the proceeds are for approved charitable, educational, character building or other community welfare purposes.
3. Out-of-school groups do not begin with their activities until school is dismissed in the afternoon and the students have left the building.
4. On days when school is closed because of snow or other calamity, all activities scheduled for that date are canceled or postponed unless otherwise authorized by the Superintendent/designee.
5. Premises shall not be used on a continuing basis on legal holidays, Sundays or school vacations without permission from the Superintendent/designee.
6. Building use is not permitted for private individuals or family affairs. Buildings are to be reserved for community group use only.
7. No group will, under any circumstances, tamper with any electrical or heating controls.
8. There is no smoking or alcohol consumption in the building.
9. The Board reserves the right to require, if it should deem necessary, that groups using the building post a cash bond to cover any damages that might be done to any property, equipment or grounds.

10. An approved floor mat or tarp may be required to protect the gym floor. The cost will be the responsibility of the renting organization.
11. School-sponsored student groups must have an employee present at the activity. Non-school-sponsored student groups must have an employee present or an adult approved by the Superintendent.
12. Groups that use school premises must possess liability insurance.
13. When the OVCTC is being used for a banquet which is served by the food service or home economics class as part of their program, there will not be a rental fee. However, any school employee required to be present will be paid his/her regular rate.
14. The Board is not responsible for the theft of or damage to property belonging to the renting organization if left unsupervised on the premises.

Definition of groups that may request use of school premises

Group A – includes all local school organized groups and organizations, such as FFA, FHA, PTO, school booster groups, drama clubs, alumni associations, etc. If an organization needs a custodian/cook, the organization will incur the cost based on the building usage agreement/contract.

Group B – includes all school-age community groups, such as Pee Wee/Youth sports, 4-H, Scouts, Knothole Baseball, any youth group not listed above when the building is used for meetings, practices, etc., and no fundraising is taking place. There is no charge for building usage during evening hours when custodians are in the building. Group B would be charged a usage fee at the Group C/D rate when a custodian is not normally scheduled in the building. (i.e. Legal holidays, Sundays, or school vacations, etc.) If an organization needs a custodian/cook, the organization will incur the cost based on the building usage agreement/contract.

Group C – includes all school-age community groups, such as Pee Wee/Youth Sports, 4-H, Scouts, Knothole Baseball, any youth group not listed above when used for fund raising events, etc. If an organization needs a custodian/cook, the organization will incur the cost based on the building usage agreement/contract. There is no charge for custodians during the weekday evening hours when custodians are in the building.

Group D – includes all nonprofit adult community groups, such as Lions Club, Rotary, hospital auxiliaries, American Legion, political groups, public service groups, religious organizations, Car Clubs, any adult group not listed above for fundraising events, etc. If an organization needs a custodian/cook, the organization will incur the cost based on the building usage agreement/contract. There is no charge for custodians during weekday evening hours when custodians are in the building.

Applications

Any facility usage, which is not a part of the regular school program or an activity sponsored by the school, shall require a building usage permit. An applicant must assure the Superintendent that the group/organization will comply with all regulations and respect the property, equipment and grounds of the school.

A sponsoring organization or group must indicate that it:

1. intends to provide a program that promotes the welfare of the community and be for community purposes;
2. guarantees orderly behavior and will provide appropriate supervision;
3. underwrites any damages due to its use of the premises;
4. pays for the use of equipment, property or grounds at the established rates and
5. possesses liability insurance of not less than \$1,000,000 aggregate and each occurrence and a medical expense limit of not less than \$5,000, the District shall be named as an additional insured on any insurance policy.

Applications must be issued on a designated form. The following conditions are to be observed:

1. Evening meetings must end by 10:00 p.m.
2. Fees are assessed in accordance with a schedule adopted annually by the Board. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to waive fees as he/she deems appropriate.
3. Permission must be obtained from the principal for the use and rearrangement of any school equipment or furniture. If such items are to be moved, they are moved by the using organization and replaced in the original location.
4. Food may be served provided that care is taken to ensure that the area used is left as clean as it was before the meeting. If kitchen or serving area is used, a child nutrition employee may be present and will be paid according to their salary and benefits at the expense of the organization.

5. Service from the custodial staff is to be limited to admitting the organization after its sponsor arrives, assisting the sponsor in an advisory capacity concerning the facilities to be used and closing up and properly securing the facilities when the organization has left.

Processing the Application

The application of a community group to use a school premises is filed with the building principal at least two weeks prior to the date of the proposed use.

After the application is cleared by the principal, it is sent to the Superintendent/designee in advance of anticipated use. The Superintendent/designee arranges for special custodial or child nutrition help. After checking for any type of District conflict on the composite calendar, the responsible school official notifies the applicant of the approval or disapproval of the request at least seven days in advance of the requested date of use.

When a request for use is denied, it may be appealed to the Superintendent/designee. The Board reserves the right to cancel facility usage if it is determined the premises are needed for a school activity. Notification of cancellation shall be given at least seven days in advance of the scheduled usage. Renting organizations may cancel confirmed reservations without penalty up to eight hours in advance of the scheduled time. All costs incurred through tardy cancellation must be paid by the renting organization.

If a facility is to be used for a program or activity more than two times in any month or more than four times in a school year, the organization and the District will execute a written contract for use of the premises in lieu of a building usage permit. The contract will contain all terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Board and District administration and provide for dates, times and location of each use.

All fees for usage must be paid directly to the District in advance of the date reserved. Costs for damages will be billed through the Treasurer's office.

Use of Special Equipment

The use of kitchen equipment for food preparation and sanitizing of dishes, utensils and tableware requires the assignment of a child nutrition employee. Organization will be charged for their salary and benefits.

School equipment must be carefully maintained, accounted for and properly used since it involves a considerable expenditure. It is a general policy not to loan school equipment to outside groups.

(Approval date: March 14, 1988)
(Re-approval date: January 26, 1998)
(Re-approval date: June 25, 2001)
(Re-approval date: November 20, 2006)
(Re-approval date: June 27, 2011)
(Re-approval date: December 18, 2014)
(Re-approval date: March 10, 2016)
(Re-approval date: November 18, 2019)
(Re-approval date: January 21, 2020)

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES
(Fee Schedule)

Building usage fees shall consist of a rental fee and an employee labor fee, and shall be assessed as follows on a per hour basis.

Building Rental Fees Per Hour:

Meeting – there is no charge for groups A and B to use a classroom, multipurpose room, gymnasium or kitchen for a meeting.

Fundraiser

Group C and D	Classroom	Multipurpose	Gymnasium	Kitchen
Elementary (per hour)	n/a	\$25	\$25	\$20
High School and CTC (per hour)	n/a	\$40	\$40	\$20

Cook/custodial charges follow chart below:

Cook:	M-F \$19.00E per hour	Saturday \$28.50 per hour	Sunday \$38.00 per hour
Custodial:	M-F \$21.50 per hour	Saturday \$32.25 per hour	Sunday \$43.00 per hour

Monday thru Friday pay based on a 40-hour week.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES
(Application)

Event/Activity: _____ Date: _____

Beginning time: _____ End time: _____ Number of people: _____

Equipment/items needed: _____

Rooms requested: _____

Fees	Pre-paid fees	Personnel assigned
Cafeteria:		
Room:		
Kitchen:		
Custodial:		
Cook:		

The undersigned acknowledges they have reviewed and agree to abide by the guidelines for use of school premises as outlined in KG-R, Community Use of School Premises and accepts full responsibility for the condition of preemies used and agrees to pay all damages or losses not the result of normal use as well as regular charges pursuant to the fee schedule.

_____ (Indemnitor) agrees to indemnify and HOLD HARMLESS the Board of Education and its agents and employees from all liability, claims, demands, damages or costs for, or arising out of, _____ (subject of indemnity) whether it be caused by the negligence of indemnitor or the Adams County/Ohio Valley Board of Education or either party's agents or employees, or otherwise.

Name of individual and organization

Address

Phone number

Signature of individual/Organization representative Date

Principal authorizing use Date

Child Nutrition Supervisor Date

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

All persons on District grounds are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations.

No person on District property may assault, strike, threaten, menace or use improper, indecent or obscene language toward a teacher, instructor, other District employees or students at any time. This prohibition is extended to all athletic officials, coaches and athletes in the District and all visiting teams.

Unless otherwise permitted by law, no person is permitted to bring deadly weapons or dangerous ordnances into a school safety zone.

No person may disrupt, disturb or interfere with the teaching of any class of students or any other activity conducted in a school building or upon the campus or grounds at any time.

Whoever violates this policy and/or building regulations will be asked to leave the property by whoever is in charge. Should that person refuse, law enforcement officials will be called. If the offender should be a student, the person in charge should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state and local ordinances.

Good Conduct and Sportsmanship

The Board recognizes the value of cocurricular and extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the classroom.

Students and adults participating in cocurricular and extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and good conduct. The Board encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship in all phases of the educational process, including athletics and all other cocurricular and extracurricular activities. Rules are posted at the entryways to all athletic events for all participants and spectators to review.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: June 28, 2004]

[Re-adoption date: September 22, 2008]

[Re-adoption date: September 28, 2009]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 1751
Gun-Free School Zones Act; 18 USC 922
ORC 2903.13; 2903.22
2911.21
2917.11
2923.1212; 2923.122
3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: GBCB, Staff Conduct
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KGC, Smoking on District Property
KK, Visitors to the Schools

TOBACCO-FREE ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board has a duty to protect and promote the health and well-being of all students and staff. The Board is acutely aware of the serious health risks associated with the use of tobacco products, both to users and nonusers, and that most tobacco use begins by the age of 18. The Board recognizes that staff and school visitors serve as role models to students and, therefore, adopts this 100% tobacco-free District policy to endorse a healthy lifestyle and prevent tobacco use.

This policy will be effective August 1, 2016

Smoking is defined by State law as inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated tobacco product or plant product intended for inhalation in any manner or in any form. Smoking also includes the use of an electronic smoking device and vapor products. For the purpose of this policy, “tobacco product” is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless dip, chew and snuff, in any form.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No volunteer or school visitor is permitted to smoke, inhale, vape, dip or chew tobacco products at any time, including non-school hours:

1. in any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the District or
2. on school grounds, athletic facilities or parking lots.

Tobacco Advertisements and Promotions

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events. Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including clothing, bags, lighters and other personal articles, are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school-sponsored events.

Providing Notice to Staff

“No Tobacco” signs will be posted throughout the District at entrances and other appropriate locations in all academic buildings, administrative spaces and athletic fields. District vehicles will display the international “No Smoking” insignia. Announcements will be made during home athletic events both before the event and during intermission, as well as at all school functions where deemed appropriate. School programs will include a written reminder of the no tobacco use on District property policy.

Enforcement

Citizens failing to comply with this policy are educated as to State law and the Board's policy on smoking. Persons refusing to extinguish smoking materials are directed to leave school property and may be fined by the Ohio Department of Health or its designees.

The following disciplinary actions may be taken against school visitors found in violation of this policy

1st Offense: verbal notification of the policy

Multiple offenses: removal from school property or, if off-campus, removal from school activity

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: July 24, 2007]

[Re-adoption date: June 23, 2008]

[Re-adoption date: March 27, 2014]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: May 26, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: November 18, 2019]

[Re-adoption date:]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Goals 2000: Educate America Act; 20 USC 6081 through 6084
ORC 3313.20
3794.01; 3794.02; 3794.04; 3794.06
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: GBK, Smoking on District Property by Staff Members
JFCG, Tobacco Use by Students
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE DISTRICT

Gifts, grants or bequests are accepted by the Board, provided the conditions of acceptance do not remove any portion of the control of the District from the Board.

Any person or organization desiring to give a gift or make a grant or bequest to the Board must contact the Superintendent, who submits the request to the Board.

Proposals for giving funds, equipment or materials to the District with a “matching” agreement or restriction are discouraged. Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board’s policy of standardizing materials and equipment.

Whenever the District has an established project, contributions that reduce the cost or hasten the completion are welcome.

[Adoption date: July 28, 2003]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 9.20
3313.17; 3313.36

CROSS REFS.: BHD, Board Member Compensation and Expenses
FEE, Site Acquisition Procedure

PUBLIC SOLICITATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

No person may sell or offer for sale within school buildings or on school property any articles or services or solicit contributions except those approved by the Superintendent or the Board. Solicitations of political contributions from a District employee are prohibited while the employee is performing official duties or in areas of a public building where official business is transacted or conducted. This policy does not prohibit any school fundraising activity authorized by the Superintendent or other appropriate building administrator.

Salespeople representing educational companies may be granted the opportunity to speak to teachers by making arrangements through the principal's office. Such appointments must not interfere with the classroom work of the teachers.

The school directory or lists of students are not made available to any outside person or agency for a profit-making purpose.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: January 27, 2003]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: November 20, 2023]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2921.43
3319.321

CROSS REFS.: GBI, Staff Gifts and Solicitations
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KK, Visitors to the Schools

ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

Notices, advertisements or written matter of any nature on behalf of persons or organizations not officially connected with the District shall not be distributed or displayed in any school building or on District property without permission of the Superintendent. All notices, including those by personnel, shall be approved by the building principal and, in case of doubt, by the Superintendent. Appeal of the Superintendent's decision may be made to the Board.

[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.47

CROSS REFS.: EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
IGDB, Student Publications
IIBH, District Websites

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS IN THE SCHOOLS

The District recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes the right to distribute, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner, non-school-sponsored material. In order to protect First Amendment rights, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the educational objectives and responsibilities of the District, the following requirements apply to the distribution of non-school-sponsored material on school property and at school activities.

Prior Approval Required

Individuals or groups not affiliated with the District, who desire to distribute materials to the members of the school community, must first receive approval of such materials through the Superintendent/designee.

Students and staff members who desire to distribute materials to members of the school community must first receive approval from the building principal and when in doubt the Superintendent.

Types of Material Restrictions

Materials must be approved if they fall under one of the following categories:

1. publications of services, special events, public meetings or other items of interest to students or parents/guardians;
2. distribution of promotional materials of a commercial nature to students or parents/guardians;
3. paid advertisements on District property, including but not limited to billboard advertisements;
4. paid advertisements on or in school-sponsored publications, yearbooks, announcements and other school communications and/or
5. products and materials donated by commercial enterprises for use in the classroom, as long as they serve an educational purpose and do not unduly promote any commercial activity or products.

Manner and Mode of Distribution

The Superintendent/designee may approve the use of District time, personnel and resources in the distribution of materials if the materials are of an educational nature. The Superintendent will not, however, approve the use of District time, personnel or District resources for distribution if the materials are not of an educational nature and/or considered to be conducting business by soliciting participation, campaigning for membership or registering participants. District personnel are prohibited from using District time or resources to distribute materials that support or oppose a levy or bond issue.

The building principals designate appropriate times, locations and means for which distribution of non-school-sponsored materials is appropriate. Determinations are made on a case-by-case basis.

Distribution with or without District involvement does not mean to imply sponsorship or support for that which the materials endorse. The District takes no responsibility for problems arising between the sponsoring individual or group and the student or staff member who accepts the materials.

Limitations on Content

Non-school literature is not distributed on District property if:

1. the materials are obscene, vulgar or otherwise inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience;
2. the materials endorse actions endangering the health or safety of students;
3. the distribution of such materials would violate the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person;
4. the materials contain defamatory statements about public figures or others;
5. the materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action;
6. the materials are hate literature or similar publications that scurrilously attack ethnic, religious or racial groups; contain content aimed at creating hostility and violence and the materials would materially and substantially interfere with school activities or the rights of others or
7. there is reasonable cause to believe that distribution of the non-school literature would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others.

Failure to comply with this policy regarding distribution of non-school literature shall result in appropriate administrative action, including but not limited to confiscation of nonconforming materials and/or suspension of use of District facilities. Appropriate law enforcement officials may be called if a person refuses to comply with this policy or fails to leave the premises when asked.

[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: November 20, 2023]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I
ORC 3313.20; 3313.47; 3313.66; 3313.661

CROSS REFS.: EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
IGDB, Student Publications
IIBH, District Websites
KJ, Advertising in the Schools

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Board encourages parents and other citizens of the District to visit classrooms to observe the work of the schools and to learn what the schools are doing. Visits should be scheduled with the teacher, in advance, to avoid any unnecessary disruption to classroom instruction or activities.

To maintain the safety of students and staff and to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter buildings, all visitors must first report to the main office to receive authorization to visit. (Authorization is not needed for school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events.)

All participants and spectators of school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations pertaining to public conduct on District property.

School principals and their designees are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent and remove, if necessary, unauthorized persons from entering District buildings, loitering on the grounds and/or creating disturbances anywhere on District property.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: September 28, 2009]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: BG, Board-Staff Communications (Also GBD)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

RECRUITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

Scheduling of recruiting visits to the District is announced to the student body in advance. Recruiters are afforded the opportunity to conduct meetings during the school day with those students who are interested.

All group meetings are scheduled through the principal's office. Classroom teachers who schedule recruiters as a career awareness activity should coordinate these activities through the principal's office.

Names, addresses, school email addresses and telephone listings of secondary school students must be released to a recruiting officer of the armed forces unless a parent or student (age 18 or older) submits a written request not to release the information. The District notified parents and students (age 18 or older) of their right to submit a written request not to release such information.

All recruiters are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations pertaining to public conduct on District property.

[Adoption date: November 25, 2002]

[Re-adoption date: June 26, 2006]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: June 25, 2018]

[Re-adoption date: January 23, 2023]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
20 USC 7908
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Section 1232g
National Defense Authorization Act: 10 USC 503: (P.L. No. 107)
William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal

Year 2021:10

USC 503 (P.L. No. 116-283

ORC 3313.471

3319.321

CROSS REFS.: JO, Student Records
JOA, Student Surveys
KBA, Public's Right to Know

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Constructive criticism of the District is welcomed by the Board. Although no member of the community is denied the right to bring his/her complaints to the Board, he/she is referred to the proper administrative channels for solution before investigation or action by the Board. Exceptions may be made when the complaints concern Board actions or Board operations.

The Board believes that complaints and grievances are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. The staff should be given the opportunity to consider the issues and attempt to resolve the problems prior to involvement by the Board. The proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline or learning materials is employee, principal, the Superintendent and then the Board.

If a complaint that was presented to the Board and referred through the proper channels is resolved before it comes back to the Board, a report of the disposition of the matter is made to the Board and then placed in the official files.

The Board expects the staff to receive complaints courteously and to make a proper reply to the complainant.

Matters referred to the Superintendent and/or the Board must be in writing and are expected to be specific in terms of the action desired.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
149.43

CROSS REFS.: KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel

CONTRACT REF.: Teacher's Negotiated Agreement

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board recognizes the need and right of students to free access to many different types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the certified staff to select books and other materials supportive of the Board's educational philosophy and goals.

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the District may be expected from time to time. In such instances, the following guidelines shall apply.

1. If a parent requests that his/her own child not read a given book, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the issue, perhaps by arranging for use of alternative material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose.
2. The Board does not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but it recognizes that, at times, a reevaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use, the following steps are taken.
 - A. The person who objects to the book or other material is asked to sign a complaint on a standard form documenting his/her criticism.
 - B. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Superintendent provides for a reevaluation of the material in question in accordance with procedures outlined in the negotiated agreement. He/She arranges for the appointment of a review committee established in accordance with the negotiated agreement to consider the complaint.
 - C. The committee reviews the complaint and renders a decision in the matter. Should the decision be unsatisfactory to the complainant, it may be appealed to the Board.

The Board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials that it makes available to students, and it holds its certified staff accountable for their proper selections. The Board also recognizes rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children and provides for the reevaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3329.07; 3329.08; 3329.09

CROSS REFS.: IIA, Instructional Materials
IIAA, Textbook Selection and Adoption
IIAC, Library Materials Selection and Adoption
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues
KL, Public Complaints
KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel

CONTRACT REF.: Teacher's Negotiated Agreement

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Complaints about personnel are investigated fully and fairly. Before any such complaint is investigated, it must be submitted in writing and signed. Anonymous complaints are disregarded unless they involve a criminal or safety issue.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it is referred to the school administration for study and possible solution. If the complaint is related to a claim of sexual harassment, the District's Title IX sexual harassment grievance process will be followed.

The Superintendent develops, for approval by the Board, procedures that ensure prompt and fair attention to complaints against school personnel. The procedure requires that an employee who is the object of a complaint be informed promptly and be afforded the opportunity to present the facts as he/she sees them.

If it appears necessary, the administration, the person who made the complaint or the employee involved may request an audience with the Board in executive session. Statutory restrictions on executive sessions are observed. Any Board action on the matter is taken in public session.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: September 21, 2020]

LEGAL REFS.: Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX; 20 USC 1681 et seq.
ORC 121.22
149.43

CROSS REFS.: ACAA, Sexual Harassment
BDC, Executive Sessions
BDDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings (Also KD)
GBL, Personnel Records
KL, Public Complaints
KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement
Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT DISTRICT PERSONNEL

The following procedures are to ensure that a citizen's complaint is given respectful attention and that the integrity of the educational program is upheld. The procedures outlined below apply to complaints for personnel not covered by the teachers' negotiated agreement. Complaints concerning employees covered by the teachers' negotiated agreement shall be handled in accordance with procedures outlined in the contract. "Complaint" in this regulation is restricted in meaning to that criticism of a particular employee by a citizen of the District that includes or implies a demand for action by District authorities. Other comments and suggestions are referred informally to appropriate personnel. If the complaint is related to a claim of sexual harassment, the District's Title IX sexual harassment grievance process will be followed prior to following the process outlined below.

1. If a complaint comes first to the person against whom it is directed, he/she listens and may try to resolve the difficulty by explaining the background and educational purpose involved. If the complaint remains unsatisfied, the employee refers the complainant to the building principal or other immediate supervisor to have his/her views considered further. Whether the complaint terminates with the individual staff member involved or seems likely to go further, the staff member immediately informs his/her supervisor of the complaint.
2. If a complaint comes first to the principal or other supervisor of the person criticized, the principal or supervisor should make no commitments, admissions of guilt or threats. If the complaint involves a particular employee, the supervisor should suggest a conference between the complainant and the employee criticized and should inform that employee immediately of the complaint. If the complainant has already met with the employee criticized and remains unsatisfied, the supervisor should invite the complainant to file the complaint in writing.
3. If a complaint comes first to any other school employee, that employee refers the complainant to the person criticized or to his/her immediate supervisor and immediately informs both.
4. No further action on the complaint should be taken unless the complainant submits the complaint in writing.
5. When a written complaint is received, the principal or other supervisor schedules a conference with the complainant, the person criticized and, if advisable, the department chairman or other personnel who, in the opinion of either the supervisor or the person criticized, could contribute to a resolution of the problem.
6. If the complainant is not satisfied with the results of the conference above, he/she should then be referred to the Superintendent, who may handle the complaint personally or refer it to other personnel, as he/she may see fit.

7. Should dissatisfaction remain after the above steps have been taken, the matter may be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The decision of the Board is communicated in writing to all interested persons.

(Approval date: June 25, 2001)

(Re-approval date: March 10, 2016)

(Re-approval date: September 21, 2020)

Relations With Support Organizations

The Board appreciates the efforts of booster groups, parent-teacher organizations (PTOs), and other support organizations whose objectives are to promote, support or enhance the educational, athletic, cocurricular or extracurricular experiences of District students.

Prior to operating a support organization whose identity derives from the District or one of its schools, the support organization must receive approval from the Board. The Board's approval is contingent upon the support organization's compliance with applicable Board policies and accompanying regulations. No organization shall use the school/District's name, logo or mascot without this approval. The Board may revoke its approval of any support organization that fails to comply with the Board's policies or regulations.

Principals, athletic directors, and other staff members should work closely with the officers of any support organizations to provide a sustained system of activities that increase and enhance educational, athletic, cocurricular or extracurricular experiences for students. The activities must be integrated and balanced in accordance with the total District program and goals and must comply with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

Donations to the District from support organizations must be made in accordance with all applicable Board policies. Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon compliance with, or experience related to, the Board's policy of standardizing materials and equipment.

School employees may not be directly compensated in any manner by District support organizations.

The Board strongly recommends that support organizations obtain general liability insurance coverage.

The Board may offer the opportunity for any approved nonprofit support organization to receive coverage under the District's liability insurance program to protect the organization against claims resulting from damage or injury resulting from any act or omission of the organization. Any support organization covered in this manner shall reimburse the Board for the cost of such insurance upon written notification from the Treasurer.

[Adoption date: June 25, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: June 24, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: October 24, 2022]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.17; 3313.20; 3313.36; 3313.47

Ohio Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion 2008-01

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KH, Public Gifts to the District
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools
KJ, Advertising in the Schools

Relations With Support Organizations

The following regulations govern the relationship between the Board, District staff members, and any District support organization. The Board may revoke formal recognition of any support organization that fails to comply with the Board's policies or regulations.

Annual Information

Upon formation and annually thereafter, each support organization must submit to the Superintendent/designee the following:

1. Names, telephone numbers and email addresses of each officer of the support organization. District officials or employees may not serve as officers of the support organization without prior authorization from the Board.
2. The support organization's bylaws, constitution and/or governance rules.
3. Financial information, which includes:
 - A. statement of income and expenditures;
 - B. statement of donations made to the District and
 - C. any other information used to determine financial solvency, as requested by the Superintendent/designee.
4. Tentative goals, objectives, projects and/or activities for the next school year.
5. Fundraising plans for the next school year.
6. Certification that the organization has complied with the Ohio Attorney General's charitable trust filing requirements.

Any changes made during the school year shall be submitted to the Superintendent/designee for review.

Fundraising

Each support organization must work in collaboration with the District to ensure that the time, date, purpose, and location of fundraisers does not conflict with school or District programs or activities, and that the fundraiser is consistent with the goals and objectives of the school or District.

Fundraising activities should not occur on school premises or during school hours unless permission has been given by the Superintendent/designee.

Accounting

Support organizations should not use the school's tax ID number. Support organizations should not accept checks made out to the school and vice versa. School employees shall not have signature authority on any depository accounts for a support organization. The support organization shall not represent or imply that its activities, contracts, purchases, or financial commitments are made on behalf of or are binding upon the District or one of its school(s).

The support organization must permit the Superintendent/designee to review all financial books and documentation upon request and shall conduct a financial audit upon request of the Superintendent/designee. Such information may be submitted to the Board for review.

District Facilities

Each support organization must abide by the policies and regulations established for community use of school premises.

Support organizations that wish to construct anything on school property must have the permission of the Board in advance of the construction project. The organization must provide the Board, in writing, proof of financial stability and that funds are available to complete the construction project.

[Adoption date: October 24, 2022]

RELATIONS WITH BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

~~The Board recognizes that the endeavors and objectives of booster organizations can be a valuable means of stimulating interest and endorsement of the aims and achievements of the District. Care must be taken to avoid compromising or diluting the responsibility and authority of the Board.~~

~~Annually, booster organizations must submit to the Superintendent/designee their tentative goals, objectives, projects and/or activities along with their fundraising plans for the next school year and any changes made during the school year for review by the Board.~~

~~The Board retains final authority over all plans, projects and activities involving District students.~~

~~Booster organizations must abide by all District policies and rules as well as the following list.~~

- ~~1.—Booster organizations should not use the school's tax ID number.~~
- ~~2.—Booster organizations should not accept checks made out to the school and vice versa.~~
- ~~3.—District officials should not have a leadership role in booster organizations.~~
- ~~4.—Fundraising activities should not occur on school premises or during school hours unless permission has been given by the Superintendent/designee.~~
- ~~5.—Documentation on ownership of property and fundraising activities is required.~~
- ~~6.—The use of the District name and emblems must be authorized.~~
- ~~7.—Booster organizations must submit their bylaws as well as quarterly reports on income, expenses and balance sheets to the Superintendent for review and approval.~~
- ~~8.—Booster organizations meeting the charitable trust filing requirements must file with the Ohio Attorney General and submit to the Superintendent a certificate indicating that filing requirements have been met.~~

~~Booster organizations must have permission from the Board prior to any construction of facilities. The organization must provide the Board, in writing, that funds are available to complete the project.~~

~~Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board's policy of standardizing materials and equipment.~~

~~[Adoption date: March 10, 2016]~~

~~LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.47
OAC 109:1-1-02~~

~~CROSS REFS.: IGDG, Student Activities Funds Management
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KH, Public Gifts to the District
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools
KK, Visitors to the Schools
KMA, Relations with Parent Organizations~~