

GIFTS TO AND SOLICITATION BY STAFF

PURPOSE:

This policy is established to set forth the expectations of the School Committee in regards to the presentation of gifts and/or the solicitation of sale of items to employees of the North Kingstown School Department.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee recognized the extemporaneous desire of students and/or parents to present a gift to a staff member and discourages such a practice. The Committee also recognizes the good intentions of staff members who, on occasion, may wish to make items of purchase available to students as a constructive influence on their work. In consideration thereof, the School Committee establishes this policy of clarity and expectation.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Excepting under authorization of the Superintendent of Schools or rules and regulations promulgated from time to time by the School Committees, the giving and receiving of gifts and/or the sale or purchase of any form of goods or merchandise to/by a student by member's staff shall be governed accordingly.

1. No employee of the North Kingstown School Department shall, for any purpose whatsoever, solicit, exact or receive from any pupil in any school any contribution or gift of money or any article of value, or any pledge to contribute any money or article of value.
2. No teacher shall accept payment for tutorial services or private lessons directly from the parents of a student under his/her instruction. This provision however, shall not be interpreted to prohibit a teacher from receiving compensation from a parent for tutoring a student who is not concurrently under his/her instruction in the school district.
3. No commercial goods or services shall be sold to students in the district nor shall any commercial materials (flyers, literature, advertisements, commercial materials, or solicitations) be sent home with students within the district except as authorized policy and procedures adopted by the School Committee which shall, at a minimum, address the following:
 - a. The conduct and financial accountability of school employees and school officials engaged in commercial activities for the benefit of the schools.
 - b. The use of school children to deliver commercial materials to parents.

4. No article shall be sold or offered for sale to students or teachers on any public school premises, nor shall any article be sold through the agency of pupils in the public schools.
5. No teacher shall solicit or receive from the pupil's subscriptions for any newspaper, periodical, or magazine, or act as an agent directly or indirectly for the distribution of such publication in the public school.
6. No teacher shall, at any time other than during the regular summer vacation of the schools, accept any fee or gift for the tutoring of any child regularly under his instruction.
7. No staff member shall distribute through or in the public schools or to children on their way to or from school any circular, sample, package coupon, ticket or other similar advertising matter.
8. Any approved fundraising activity shall be conducted on a voluntary basis and in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the School Committee and shall, at a minimum, address the following:
 - a. The conduct and financial accountability of district employees engaged in fundraising activities for the benefit of the school or district.
 - b. The specific circumstances, if any, for door to door solicitations and door to door sales by school students for fundraising.
 - c. The use of students to deliver fundraising materials to parents.

This policy should not be construed to forbid requiring or accepting from a pupil a deposit of a reasonable amount of money as a guarantee for the return of school property other than books and supplies. The School Committee shall make suitable rules and regulations for the safekeeping and return of such deposits. Further, this policy should not be construed to forbid the acquisition by pupils, at reasonable prices, of articles made in industrial, manual training, domestic arts or other similar classes, under suitable rules and regulations adopted by the School Committee.

The provisions herein shall not be interpreted as intended to discourage acts of generosity in unusual situations.

To assure clarity and avoid any misunderstandings in regards to the implementation of this policy, the Superintendent shall develop and maintain updated Administrative Regulations, which specify those circumstances under which gifts and/or solicitations are authorized.

Adopted: 6/23/58
Revised: 11/20/02