

Advertising in the Schools

The MSAD 52 Board of Directors believes that, product/business advertising, endorsement and sponsorship are to be carefully considered in order to weigh the benefits to the district with the exposure of students to commercial messages. The Board believes that, in general, product advertising and/or endorsement is to be discouraged in the schools. The Board has an obligation to assure that students, who are required by law to attend, are not subjected to commercial messages of any kind without careful analysis of the benefits and risks that pertain in each instance. Since the issue of advertising in the schools can be attended by strong opinions, the Board may seek comments and recommendations from the administration, the professional teaching staff and the community prior to considering any form of advertising in schools facilities, on school grounds or on schools buses.

The Board recognizes, however, that in some instances product names, logos or advertising may be acceptable when the programming, equipment or services can be clearly shown to benefit a school program.

The Board reserves the right to consider requirements for advertising on school grounds on a case-by-case basis, except that:

- A. Brand specific advertising of food or beverages is prohibited in school buildings, on school grounds or on school buses except for food and beverages meeting standards for sale or distribution on school grounds in accordance with Department of Education rules. For the purpose of this paragraph, “advertising” does not include advertising on broadcast media or in print media such as newspapers and magazines, clothing with brand images worn on school grounds or advertising on product packaging.
  
- B. Consistent with its efforts to promote a tobacco, alcohol and drug-free environment, the Board will not agree to displays of advertising in school buildings, on school grounds or on school buses for tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs (including prescription and over the counter medications), performance enhancing substances, dietary supplements, or any other item not consistent with the mission/vision of the District.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 6662  
Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule Ch. 51

Cross Reference: EFE –Food Sales  
JJE – Fund-Raising Activities  
JL-Wellness

Adopted: June 2008  
Revised: February 2009  
Revised: June 2011  
Revised: May 2014