

PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS BY QUALIFIED NON-STUDENT GROUPS

Policy Code:

5212

Presentations to Students By Qualified Non-Student Groups

The primary mission of Buncombe County Schools is to provide every student within its jurisdiction with a sound basic education which will enable them to progress beyond a secondary level of education and either continue their formal education or otherwise become contributing members of society. An integral part of a sound basic education is the ability to translate academic knowledge into the basic skills needed to function in our complex and rapidly changing society. To this end, the Buncombe County Board of Education recognizes that certain organizations with a demonstrated track record of providing bona fide enrichment programs targeted at school-aged youth play a vital role in nurturing the development of students in Buncombe County.

In addition, it is the right of the Buncombe County Board of Education to determine whether or not non-student groups may have access to public school students during the school day. If access is provided, it is the right of the Buncombe County Board of Education to define the time, place and manner in which qualifying non-student groups may make presentations to students during the school day for the limited purpose of providing students with minimal information regarding the enrichment programs they offer to these students after school and during other non-school days and times of the year.

This policy is designed to allow limited presentations of information within expressed requirements, which limit time away from actual classroom instruction. This policy is adopted with the express reservation of the Board of Education of its right to expand, limit or terminate the access provided by the policy.

This policy is to be read consistent with the laws and Constitution of the United States, the laws and Constitution of the State of North Carolina, and existing Board of Education Policies in order to ensure that the school system maintains the separation of church and state and that the primary objective of any group seeking access to students under this policy is not economic profit. The principal of each school shall be responsible for enforcement of this policy and shall have the discretion to choose among the alternative listed below regarding "Form of Presentations."

- I. Qualifying Groups: Any group seeking to make a presentation to students under this policy must:**
 - A. Be a bona fide governmental organization or a "non-profit" or "not-for-profit" organization duly existing and authorized to transact business under the laws of the State of North Carolina and qualified under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
 - B. Have a primary purpose of service to school-aged children; and
 - C. Have a demonstrated history of providing enrichment programs for school-aged children.

II. Qualification Process:

- A. No later than May 1st of the preceding school year, a group seeking to make a presentation during the following school year must make a written request to the school principal.
- B. The written request shall include the following:
 - 1. Name of organization.
 - 2. Proof of Section 501(c) status and Certificate of Good Standing from the Office of the North Carolina Secretary of State (not applicable to governmental organizations).
 - 3. Proof of at least two consecutive years of enrichment programs offered to school-aged children in Buncombe County, North Carolina.
 - 4. The attachment of any materials that the group wishes to distribute.
 - 5. An outline of any oral presentation.
 - 6. A statement as to the group's ability to reinforce instruction provided by the school system through their enrichment program(s).

III. Form of Presentation

The school principal has the authority for deciding on the manner of presentation(s) in order to ensure that any time away from actual classroom instruction is minimized. The principal may choose one or a combination of the following methods as long as the method(s) chosen are consistent among groups.

- A. Classroom Presentations: A group may make a short in-class presentation.
- B. Assemblies: Groups may be required to present in a single assembly with time divided equally among the groups with the total time allotted not to exceed a single class period.
- C. Distribution of materials: Materials may be provided to students to take home. If materials are provided they shall include a disclaimer that states that the programs described are not affiliated with, endorsed by, or otherwise connected in any way to Buncombe County Schools.
- D. Contact Information: The principal may choose to distribute a list of the groups presenting limited to the following information:
 - 1. Name of group.
 - 2. Name, address, and phone number of contact person.
 - 3. Name of programs(s) and date(s) offered.

IV. Review by Principal; Content Restriction

The Buncombe County Board of Education retains total control over the content of material delivered directly to students during the school day by any method or means as provided by law. Although the principal will not review oral presentation outlines and written materials for viewpoint, he will screen all presentations and materials for content that will be disruptive, age inappropriate (patently offensive or obscene), or that has the primary purpose of promoting religion. The Board has a constitutional duty to avoid the establishment of religion and to avoid the perceived endorsement of religion. Therefore, no group whose primary purpose is the advancement of religion shall be permitted to make a presentation to students during the school day under this policy. In addition, no political campaign messages or written materials endorsing a particular candidate may be part of a presentation.

V. Consultation and Review by Superintendent

In the event that a school principal has a question or needs clarification regarding the implementation of this policy, he shall consult with the Superintendent.

VI. No Affiliation or Endorsement

The programs presented by groups pursuant to this policy are not education programs of the Buncombe County Schools and are not affiliated with, endorsed by, or otherwise connected in any way to the Buncombe County Schools.

VII. Use of School Facilities

The use of school facilities by community groups is governed by Board Policy 5030 and 5030R and is in no way affected by this Policy.

Replaces Board Policy 660

History of Policy 660

Adopted: January 9, 2003

Updated NCSBA policy format and policy number assigned on: January 23, 2016