

CUCPTSA Communications

Required Disclaimers/Statements for PTA websites and printed Communications

The recent ACLU ruling related to student fees and public education has caused us all to be more knowledgeable about what fundraising activities are utilized and how they are presented in our schools. The ruling relates to Section 8 Article IX of the State of California Constitution which guarantees a “free public education”. To insure compliance, Capistrano Unified School District set up a task force to define clear guidelines related to student fees for the schools and for the “school-connected organizations”. PTA is considered a school-connected organization and as such must complete an “annual assurance” document signed by the PTA president that verifies that all funds raised for district related activities meet the District’s policies on student fees. This requirement includes the posting of “explanatory language” on the home page of the organizations website.

This sort of disclaimer is similar to others that are also defined by the California State PTA related to PTA websites and publications that will protect the PTA’s non profit 501(3)(c) status. Following are a variety of disclaimers and statements that each unit should include on their websites as well as printed documents distributed to students and families. The exact verbiage to us is in *italic* print.

Websites

- **CUSD School-connected organization - Required for the Home page of the PTA website:**
*“As a school-connected organization, we must follow the same Constitutional guidelines related to student fees that mandate all schools and districts provide a public education to your student free of charge. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that neither the school nor its support organizations can require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or specific uniforms for any school activity, nor can we require you or your family to pay security deposits or make donations in order to participate in the program. **All donations are strictly voluntary and greatly appreciated as we work to support our schools and programs!**”*
- **PTA Disclaimer related to external website links**
“Although the ABC PTA site includes links providing direct access to other Internet sites, the ABC PTA has not participated in the development of those other sites, and does not exert any editorial or other control over those sites. The linking to or from this site does not imply on the part of the ABC PTA any guarantee of quality, assumption of liability or endorsement of the organizations maintaining external Websites.”
- **Links to an e-commerce business**
“PTA does not endorse, warrant or recommend any of these products. PTA will receive a small percentage of every sale. If you decide to purchase any products, we thank you.”

NOTE: The first two disclaimers noted above that should appear on the Home page can be started on the home page and continued on a back page.

Printed Documents (flyers, newsletters, etc.)

- **All printed publications**
“Not printed at CUSD expense”
- **Products mentioned in a newsletter or publication:**
PTAs may not endorse products or services or encourage members to purchase them. If using the name of a business or organization that supports your school or PTA, print a disclaimer such as:
“The mention of any business or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by ABC PTA.”