

SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY

Section:	3000: Business Operations	Office Responsible:	
Policy:	Mural Installations		
Related Policies:			

I. Purpose

To establish a transparent, inclusive, and values-based process for reviewing and approving murals on Smyrna School District property including their maintenance and lifespan. The proud display of murals supports student expression, cultural representation, and the educational mission of the district.

II. Authority

Delaware Code, *Title 14 §1056*

III. Policy

A. Mural Proposal Submission

A mural proposal must be submitted to the school principal and must include:

- A detailed design or artistic rendering
- Written explanation of the mural's message, educational purpose, and thematic significance
- Exact location and dimensions
- List of artists and their roles
- Materials and cost estimate
- Funding sources
- Timeline for creation

If the mural includes written content such as quotes, names, or textual references, the proposal must also include:

- The full text of any quotes
- The name and background of the quoted individual
- A justification for their inclusion and relevance

B. Verification of Quotes and Attributions

Before approval moves forward:

- The person or team submitting the mural must conduct thorough research on any individual quoted, referenced, or depicted in the mural.
- The school's Mural Review Committee will review this research to ensure:
 - The individual's values and public record do not conflict with the district's non-discrimination policies
 - The quote is accurately attributed and used in appropriate context
 - The message aligns with district values on inclusivity, equity, and community standards

If concerns arise during review, the committee may request the quote be removed or replaced.

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C. School-Level Review

A Mural Review Committee is formed, including:

- School leadership
- Faculty (preferably including art, history/social studies teachers)
- Student representatives
- Parent/community member
- Facilities/operations staff

The committee evaluates the proposal based on:

- Artistic and educational value
- Cultural sensitivity
- Safety and maintenance
- Context of location
- Appropriateness and accuracy of quotes, imagery, and references

D. District-Level Review

Once approved at the school level, the proposal is submitted to the District Office for policy and compliance review, ensuring alignment with:

- Board policies (on expression, facilities, and equity)
- Legal requirements
- Future facility plans

District communications and legal teams will also vet any quotes, names, or references that raise concerns.

E. School Board Review

The completed proposal is submitted to the School Board. The Board may:

- Approve the proposal
- Request modifications
- Reject the proposal, with explanation

F. Installation and Documentation

After approval:

- The mural is created under supervision
- All artists must follow district safety protocols
- The finished work is documented with photos and a project summary
- A plaque may accompany the mural with title, artists' names, quote (if applicable), and year of completion
- Murals should be in a site where it will enhance and activate the student experience. It should not be placed in a location where it disrupts the site's landscaping and maintenance requirements. It should not physically damage the building or site.

G. Maintenance and Revisions

- A maintenance plan will be created and funded as needed which shall include:
 - A schedule of regular inspection.

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- An outline of maintenance activities for murals e.g. cleaning and minor repair.
- Documentation of condition, maintenance and treatment work.
- If circumstances or community standards change, the district reserves the right to alter or remove the mural, pending review
- There are a limited number of mural spaces in our schools. Mural spaces can be replaced with clean mural panels. Any student wishing to paint a mural on a space already in use must go through the Mural Proposal Process and specify which mural they wish to replace.

Persons objecting to a specific mural or wall art should submit a letter to the principal including the objection and any proposed solution. Objections will be reviewed, and a response will be provided to the complainant through the Superintendent or designee.

Board Approval Acknowledged by:



Jonathan Snow, President
Smyrna School District Board of Education

Policy Actions

Adopted: July 7, 2025

Revised: