

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

A. Official school publications defined.

An "official school publication" is material produced by student in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to students either free or for a fee.

B. Expression in an official school publication.

1. No student shall express, publish, or distribute in an official school publication material which is:
 - a. obscene;
 - b. libelous;
 - c. slanderous; or
 - d. encourages students to:
 - 1) commit unlawful acts;
 - 2) violate school rules;
 - 3) cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
 - 4) disrupt or interfere with the educational program;
 - 5) interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
 - 6) infringe on the rights of others.
2. The official school publication shall be produced under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

C. Responsibilities of students.

1. Students writing or editing official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial, and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations of the student publications code and the law.
2. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.
3. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling, for clarity and accuracy of official school publications.

D. Responsibilities of faculty advisors.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law, including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech.

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E. Liability.

Student expression in an official school publication shall not be deemed to be an expression of the school district. The school district, the board, and the school district employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students, unless the school district employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

F. Appeal procedure.

1. Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication shall seek review of the decision through the student grievance procedure, under board policy 502.6 - Student Complaints and Grievances.
2. Persons who believe they have been aggrieved by a student produced official student publication shall file their complaint through the citizen grievance procedure, under board policy 215 - Public Participation in Board of Directors Meetings.

G. Time, place and manner restrictions on official school publications.

1. Official student publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner, on or off school premises.
2. Distribution in a reasonable manner shall not encourage students to:
 - a. commit unlawful acts;
 - b. violate school rules;
 - c. cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
 - d. disrupt or interfere with the educational program;
 - e. interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
 - f. infringe on the rights of others.

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Revised: