

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

School- Sponsored Publications (Newspapers and other Literature)

The Board encourages students to express their views in school-sponsored publications, but they must observe rules for responsible journalism. This means that libelous statements, obscenity, defamation of persons, false statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school regulations, or material designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted.

The Board also encourages school-sponsored publications as an educational activity through which students can gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, printing, and an understanding of responsible journalism. The sponsors of student publications have a responsibility to review the contents of these papers before publication and to assist students in improving their skills, their modes of expression, and to recognize material that is in poor taste, misleading, false, ill-advised, prejudiced, and even libelous.

Review of content prior to publication is not censorship, but part of the educational process as this concerns student publications. It can be pointed out to students, as it frequently is to journalists, that a publisher (in this case, the school district) enjoys freedom to determine what it will and will not publish.

Distribution of Literature

Student shall enjoy constitutional rights to the distribution of literature on school grounds and in school buildings, except that the principal may prohibit the distribution in school buildings of a specific publication for the reasons stated in the first paragraph above. The principal may require that no literature be distributed unless a copy is submitted in advance.

The school and district shall at all times retain the right to reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of such distribution of all literature.

Adoption Date: September 12, 2011