

# POLICY

2012 7411

Students

## **SUBJECT: STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

The Board of Education believes that student speech in school-sponsored or District-sponsored publications, events or activities should be consistent with the School District's basic educational mission. Freedom of speech and of expression in such publications and/or activities is guaranteed by the First Amendment and will be observed by the administration and faculty. Freedom of speech, however, confers upon students the responsibility to uphold the legitimate educational interest of the community and the School District and to refrain from speech which is in any way inconsistent with the District's basic educational mission. Student editors have the responsibility to refrain from libel, obscenity or speech which is vulgar, offensive, ungrammatical or age inappropriate. The final arbiter of all decisions as to appropriateness of student speech rests with the Board of Education in accordance with constitutional principles established by the Supreme Court.

A school-sponsored or District-sponsored publication, event or activity is any official publication, event or activity which is endorsed and supported by the School District, or paid for in whole or in part with School District funds and held out to the community, students and parents as District-approved speech.

The Board of Education has charged the Superintendent with the responsibility of instituting adequate safeguards to ensure that all school sponsored activities are operated for the good of students. One of the purposes of a school should be to teach its students how to use our constitutional guarantee of a free press in a constructive and informative manner. Students have the responsibility to observe the normal rules of responsible journalism and to produce publications that will bring credit to the school district, the community, and themselves.

The building principal is directed to develop guidelines for operation of the student publications, describing standards of responsible journalism and incorporating the caution that students should not publish libelous material.

Restraint of student publications may be made by the building principal, where the publication is obscene, libelous, likely to result in substantial disruption of or materially interfere with school activities and/or school discipline, or would tend to endanger the health, safety, or welfare of district students and/or staff.

Disagreements regarding the content of student publications shall be resolved pursuant to the procedure outlined in Board of Education resolution 7.4-9.

Historical Note: Resolution 7.4-9 Student Newspapers 1/28/82  
Adopted 5/8/12