

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

School sponsored publications provide students with experience in reading, writing, editing and journalism as a part of the educational process. The Board of Trustees encourages such learning processes in classes and extracurricular activities.

School Sponsored Publications

School sponsored publications provide opportunities for coverage of student activities and expression of original literary and artistic works. However, expression that is inconsistent with the educational objectives of the District or that might interfere with the proper function of the educational process is unacceptable.

The following guidelines govern the content of school sponsored publications:

1. A faculty publication advisor shall be assigned to supervise the production of school sponsored publications and teach professional standards of style, grammar, format and suitability of submissions.
2. School sponsored publications should reflect the editorial policy and judgment of the student editors who shall be responsible for determining the news, opinion and advertising content, if any, of school sponsored publications subject to the limitations of this policy and applicable laws.
3. The faculty publication advisor charged with supervision of a school sponsored publication shall be responsible for reviewing all materials prior to publication. It is the initial responsibility of the publication advisor to determine that all publications are in accordance with this policy and applicable law. Final decisions regarding the suitability of expressions contained within a publication rests with the principal of the school involved. Publication will be permitted unless the material is deemed by the principal, after consultation with the student editors and the publication advisor, to be in violation of the standards described below.
4. To protect the rights of all members of the educational community within the District and to promote the educational purposes of the schools, school sponsored publications may be prohibited from publishing:
 - a. Expression which is obscene;
 - b. Expression which is libelous, slanderous, or defamatory under federal or state law;
 - c. Expression which is false as to any person who is not a public figure or involved in a matter of public concern;
 - d. Expression which creates a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, the violation of lawful school policies or regulations, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school;
 - e. Expression which violates the rights of others to privacy; or,
 - f. Expression which threatens the personal safety of any person or group or advocates racial, religious, sexual or other forms of discrimination.

Non-School Sponsored Publications

Students are permitted to possess non-school sponsored student publications and other literature, including newspapers, magazines, leaflets, and pamphlets at school subject to the limitations of this policy and applicable law. To protect the correlative rights of all members of the educational community within the District, publications containing expressions of the type specifically prohibited by this Policy are prohibited from distribution on real property owned by the District.

To protect the welfare and rights of the educational community within the District, any non-school sponsored publication intended for distribution on real property owned by the District shall be submitted to the principal or his or her designee for approval. The principal or his or her designee may deny approval to distribute any nonschool sponsored publication if he or she reasonably determines that the publication contains an expression of the type prohibited under this policy.

The time, place and manner of distribution of any non-school sponsored publication on real property owned by the District may be reasonably regulated by the principal or his designee.

Definitions

1. "Distribute" means dissemination of any expression in any form such that the material is made available to students.
2. "Obscene" means expression that the average person, applying contemporary school community standards, would find, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests or expression that, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.
3. "Libelous, slanderous or defamatory" means a false, unprivileged oral or written statement about a specific individual that tends to harm the individual's reputation by lowering the person in the estimation of the community or deferring others from associating or dealing with the person. Such statements include those that tend to expose an individual to public hatred, shame, contempt, ridicule, or disgrace.