

# POLICY

2011

7411

Students

## **SUBJECT: CENSORSHIP OF SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

The District may exercise editorial control over the style and content of student speech in school sponsored publications and activities that are part of the educational curriculum.

The Board of Education encourages student publications as a means to provide a rewarding educational experience as well as an opportunity for students to express their views. Freedom of speech and expression, however, confers upon students the responsibility to uphold the legitimate interest of the Board in providing an orderly and efficient school and classroom atmosphere. It is, therefore, essential that an appropriate balance between order and freedom be maintained.

Students should determine the content of their publications and other forms of expression. However, students must be aware that certain types of expression represent unprotected speech and are prohibited. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, threats of violence, false statements, statement of hatred, materials advocating racial, religious, and other forms of prejudice, or the breaking of laws and school regulations, materials which invade the privacy of others, or statements which are or have the potential to be disruptive of the educational process are not permitted.

All students' publications shall comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Consistent with this principle, students should observe the professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness. Students should check and verify all facts and the accuracy of all quotations. Furthermore, expressions of personal opinion should be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers should be provided. Faculty advisors shall serve as editorial consultants for the school sponsored student newspaper and shall advise on the style, grammar, format and propriety of the materials in accordance with this and all Board policies.

Moreover student publications shall be free of advertisements for alcohol, tobacco, illicit or illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or other illegal or inappropriate products or services. Students have a right to distribute literature on school grounds and in school buildings provided such distribution does not interfere with or disrupt the educational process, or is not otherwise inconsistent with the Policy. All copies of publications produced and/or distributed or posted by students must bear the names of the students or student organizations who wish such material posted or distributed. The Superintendent of Schools may establish regulations that are consistent with the above provisions.

The provisions of this policy in no way diminish the authority of and the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools in enforcing the Policy #7411 "Censorship of School Sponsored Student Publications and Activities".

Adopted: 11/15/11