

SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

The Board of Education recognizes school-sponsored student publications and productions as important elements of the instructional program. Students are encouraged to develop their written and oral communication skills and to exercise the right to express their opinions freely and responsibly.

The Board also recognizes, however, that the rights of free speech and free expression of students in public schools under the First Amendment are not necessarily the same as the rights of adults in other settings. Instead, these rights must be applied in light of the special characteristics of the school environment.

Consistent with this determination, the Board reserves the right to exercise pre-publication or pre-production control over all school-sponsored publications and/or productions through administrative staff and faculty. Student expression may be restricted whenever it is determined that such expression is inconsistent with the basic educational mission of the district. Any restriction shall be reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns. Under no circumstance may any school-sponsored student publication contain any material which is vulgar or profane or which reflects prejudice.

Students shall have the right to appeal the exercise of pre-publication or pre-production control by district staff to the Board.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for developing regulations to implement this policy. The regulations shall:

- Identify district staff responsible for student publications and productions
- Establish procedures for pre-publication and/or pre-production review; and
- Specify procedures for appeal by students to the Board with provisions for prompt decisions to be made at each level.

Ref: *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeir*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988) (limits on student free speech rights in school-sponsored student publications)
Tinker v. DesMoines Independent Community School Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969) (limits on student free speech rights in school setting)

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