

STUDENTS

ACTIVITIES - STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

General

The Board of Education recognizes creative student expression as an educational benefit to the District. Students' rights to freedom of expression and equal protection of the law shall be observed with regard to student publications. However, the observance of these rights must be balanced against the duty of educating students in an orderly manner to protect the rights of all. The Board reserves the right to prohibit expression which will cause substantial disruption to school activities or which violates the rights of others.

School-Sponsored Publications

School-sponsored publications and productions are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School authorities may edit or delete material which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

All student media shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Text that is libelous, obscene, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, is socially inappropriate, is inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process will not be tolerated.

The author's name will accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

Non-School-Sponsored Publications

Students may distribute non-school-sponsored written material at school in accordance with the Superintendent's or Building Principal's distribution rules. Students may not, however, distribute at school written material that:

1. is obscene or libelous, invades the privacy of others, will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, or advocates conduct otherwise inconsistent with shared values of a civilized social order; or
2. religious material that other students could reasonably believe is school-sponsored or endorsed.

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Distribution "at school" includes distribution on school property or at school-related activities. Students who distribute forbidden material or who write or publish such material for distribution at school engage in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined.

LEGAL REF.: Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 108 S.Ct. 562 (1988).
Hedzes v. Wauconda Community Unit School Dist. No. 118, 807 F.Supp. 444 (N.D. Ill. 1992).

Adopted: May 12, 1983
Revised: December 10, 1998