

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

Expression of student opinion is an important part of education in a democratic society. Students' written expression of opinion on school premises is to be encouraged as it is consistent with the mission of schools to act as limited forums established and operated for defined and required educational purposes.

Publications and the distribution of student-produced materials may not cause disruption of, or interference with, school activities and shall be subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions defined in procedures for this policy. Such publications and materials may not be distributed on school property by non-students or non-employees of the District. Improper distribution, or distribution of inappropriate materials, may be halted and the materials confiscated. In addition, students responsible for the distribution of materials in violation of these provisions will be subject to corrective action or punishment consistent with student discipline policies.

Student performances (e.g. drama productions, dances, etc.), school-sponsored materials, and students' independently prepared materials must meet the following criteria: they may not be defamatory, indecent, vulgar or invasive of privacy; may not advocate the violation of law; may not advocate or promote tobacco or alcohol products, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or otherwise encourage actions which endanger the health and safety of students; may not demean individuals or groups on the basis of racial, ethnic, religion, disability or sexual characteristics in a manner likely to cause disruption or amounting to illegal harassment; and may not violate any other limitation imposed by law.

Student publications, performances and media productions produced as part of the school's official curriculum are intended to serve as vehicles for instruction and student communication. Material appearing in such publications, performances and media materials should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent. A variety of viewpoints should be presented in publications or other school sponsored materials. Controversial issues may be presented provided they are treated in depth. Schools retain editorial control of the content of such materials.

Student publications and materials produced entirely by students outside of the school or its official curriculum may be distributed on school premises in accordance with procedures which accompany this policy. Such procedures may impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner of distribution or circulation of substantial quantities of printed materials or the posting of such materials on school property.

Reviewed: February 26, 2013

Adopted: September 9, 2005

Revised:

Legal Reference: Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 1987