

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Board supports and encourages school sponsored student publications, including school newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, electronic media, and similar publications, as part of the curriculum. Such publications are intended as an opportunity for student to learn and practice effective self-expression and responsible journalism. They are not intended to be public forums for general student use.

Student publications may include controversial topics. School-sponsored publication activities should teach the importance of balance, fairness, and accuracy, and produce materials that are suited to the maturity of students to which they are distributed.

Student publications shall be supervised by a faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will be responsible for acquainting students with standards for ethical and responsible journalism.

Student editors and faculty advisors will have initial responsibility in determining content, but school administrators shall have the authority to prohibit distribution of materials that are inconsistent with the educational mission of the schools.

No material will be distributed that

- A. Is vulgar, indecent or obscene;
- B. Is libelous;
- C. Personally attacks, insults or denigrates a person based on his/her race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry or national origin, or disability;
- D. Infringes on another person's right to privacy;
- E. Promotes the illegal use of weapons or tobacco, alcohol, drugs or other products that are illegal for minors;
- F. Threatens violence or advocates the commission of illegal acts or violation of Board policies or school rules; or
- G. Clearly threatens to cause a substantial disruption of the instructional program or the operations of the school.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop review and appeal procedures for students who feel that publication of their material have been improperly or unfairly restricted.

Adopted: October 3, 1988

Revised: November 1, 1999; February 2, 2015