

Student Publications**I. OVERVIEW**

Student publications are important elements of the instructional program and contribute directly to the accomplishment of the school's goals. The Board of Education encourages the development of school newspapers and magazines to:

1. Report on school activities and accomplishments of students and staff.
2. Allow students to exchange ideas and opinions.
3. Reinforce writing skills taught in the classroom.
4. Teach responsible journalism.
5. Provide an outlet for students' creativity.

- II. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES:** Articles in newspapers should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent and controversy. It is the intent of the Board of Education that students be provided with avenues for the research of ideas and causes of interest to them and be allowed to express their opinions.

Controversial subjects should be presented in depth with a variety of viewpoints published. In the case of editorials on controversial issues, space for rebuttal should be provided in the same issue, if possible, but otherwise no later than the following issue.

III. CONTENT PROHIBITION

- A.** Material which is libelous or which violates the right of privacy.
- B.** Material which is obscene, according to current standards of our community.
- C.** Profanity, hereby defined as that language which would not be used in the local newspapers.
- D.** Material which advocates the breaking of any law or Board policy.
- E.** Material which advocates action that would endanger the health or safety of students or staff.
- F.** Material which contains false statements or innuendoes that would subject any person to hatred, ridicule, contempt, or injury of reputation.

Student Publications**III. CONTENT PROHIBITION (continued)**

- G. Material which criticizes or demeans any race, religion, sex, ethnic group, or group of persons with disabilities.
- H. Ads for any product that is not legal or that is not conducive to good health.
- I. Any material which would cause substantial disruption of the school, defined as the threat of physical violence and/or the disruption of the school's educational program.
- J. Endorsements by the paper of political candidates or ballot measures, whether such endorsements are made via word or graphic. The newspaper may, however, publish articles on candidates and ballot measures that reflect an individual's opinion, provided equal space is provided for all candidates for a particular office and for both sides of a ballot measure.

IV. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATENESS:

The publication's advisor shall have the primary responsibility of reviewing each article, including each graphic, prior to its publication to determine if it satisfies all the conditions of these guidelines. The school principal or his designated representative other than the newspaper advisor may also review copy prior to its publication.

V. NONSCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

Nonschool sponsored newspapers or other publications shall be permitted as long as they adhere to the rules of responsible journalism. Distribution of such publications shall be limited to before and after school hours at places on the school premises that are designated by building principals.

Legal References: *Eisner v Stamford Board of Education*, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir., 1971)

Trachtman v Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir., 1977) cert. denied,
435 U.S. 925 (1978)

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