

Freedom of Speech/Expression

- I. **RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION:** The school district shall recognize and protect the rights of student expression. It will balance these rights with the interests of an orderly and efficient educational process and of a school environment suitable for healthy growth and development of all students.
- II. **DISTRICT'S RESPONSIBILITY:** The school district shall assume no responsibility for the contents of material produced, posted, circulated, or otherwise distributed in accordance with this policy.
- III. **APPROVAL FOR POSTING, CIRCULATING, OR DISTRIBUTING MATERIAL:** A building administrator must grant permission for the posting, circulating, or distributing of material on school property to assure that such material is consistent with the requirements and limitations delineated in this policy.
- IV. **REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING, CIRCULATING, OR DISTRIBUTING MATERIAL**
 1. Material to be posted, circulated, or distributed on school district property shall be noncommercial.
 2. Such material shall bear the names of at least two students principally involved in the promotion of this material, and, when applicable, the name of the sponsoring student organization or group.
 3. Distributors of materials will be held responsible for cleaning up litter caused by such distribution.
- V. **LIMITATIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL:** Material to be posted, circulated, or distributed on school district property shall not:
 1. Contain libelous or obscene language.
 2. Advocate illegal actions.
 3. Contain false statements or innuendoes that would subject any person to hatred, ridicule, contempt, or injury to reputation.
 4. Threaten disruption of the school's educational process.
 5. Advocate actions which would endanger the health or safety of students or staff.
 6. Invade the lawful rights of others.
 7. Solicit funds or donations except for causes duly sanctioned by the school.

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Legal References: *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104 (1972).

Amendment of U.S. Constitution - Article I.

Connecticut Constitution, Article First, Declaration of Rights,
Sections 4, 5.

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of
Education, 9/9/81.

Policy Adopted: 5/19/97