

STUDENTS

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The expression of student opinion is an important part of education in a democratic society. Students' verbal and written expression of opinion on school premises is to be encouraged so long as it does not substantially disrupt the operation of the school. Students are expressly prohibited from the use of vulgar and/or offensive terms in classroom or assembly settings.

The superintendent shall develop guidelines assuring that students are able to enjoy expression of opinion while maintaining orderly conduct of the school.

1. Student Publications

Student publications produced as part of the school's curriculum or with the support of the associated student body fund are intended to serve both as vehicles for instruction and student communication. They are operated and substantively financed by the district.

Material appearing in such publications should reflect areas of student interest. Controversial issues may be presented provided that they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not: be libelous, obscene or profane; cause a substantial disruption of the school, invade the privacy of others; demean any race, religion, gender, or ethnic group; or, advocate the violation of the law or advertise tobacco products, liquor, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia.

The superintendent shall develop guidelines to implement these standards and shall establish procedures for the prompt review of any materials which appear not to comply with the standards.

2. Distribution of Materials

Publications or other material written by students may be distributed on school premises in accordance with procedures developed by the superintendent. Such procedures may impose limits on the time, place, and manner of distribution including prior authorization for the distribution or circulation of substantial quantities of printed material or the posting of such material on school property.

Students responsible for the distribution of material which leads to a substantial disruption of school activity or otherwise interferes with school operations shall be subject to corrective action or punishment, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with student discipline policies.

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FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (continued)

Materials shall not be distributed on school grounds by students, non-students, employees, and/or non-employees of the district, without review and approval of the superintendent.

3. Editorial Board

The Superintendent shall establish guidelines and member representation for an Editorial Board to provide guidance on written and/or graphic materials included in any student publication.

Legal References:

WAC 180-40-215 Student rights

Adopted: 6/4/91

Revised: 10/21/03