

**SCHOOL RELATED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
(School Publications Code)**

**1. Purpose**

School-sponsored student publications provide an educational activity through which students can gain experience in reporting, writing, editing and understanding responsible journalism. Content of school publications should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy.

**2. Prohibited Materials**

**The following defines those materials prohibited by this regulation's accompanying policy.**

- a. Students may not publish or distribute material that is obscene. "Obscene" means:
  - (1) The average person applying contemporary school community standards would find that the publication, taken as a whole, appeals to a minor's prurient interest in sex.
  - (2) The publication depicts or describes in a patently offensive way sexual conduct such as sexual acts (normal or perverted), masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of genitals.
  - (3) The work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.
- b. Students may not publish expression that is libelous, slanderous or defamatory under state law. "Libelous" is defined as a false and unprivileged statement about a person that injures or would be expected to injure the individual's reputation in the community.
- c. Students may not publish expression that is false as to any person who is not a public figure or involved in a matter of public concern.

If the allegedly libeled individual is a "public figure or official," the official must show that the false statement was published with actual malice, as the terms are defined in law.

- d. Students may not publish expression that creates a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, violation of lawful school regulations, or material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, that violates the rights of others to privacy, or that threatens violence to property or persons.

Undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough; school administrators must be able to show substantial facts that reasonably support a forecast of likely disruption. Material that stimulates heated discussion or debate does not constitute the type of disruption, which is prohibited.

**3. Time, Place and Manner Restrictions**

The principal will coordinate with the publications advisor concerning the time, place and manner of distributing school-sponsored publications to reduce any conflict with school instructional time and/or reduce any disruption of the orderly operation of the school, which might be caused by the distribution of school-sponsored publications.

**4. Procedures for Resolving Differences**

Student editors will work first with the publications advisor to resolve any differences. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student editors and/or the publications advisor will work with the principal to resolve any problems. If the problem is not resolved at the principal level, the student editors and/or the publications advisory may appeal in writing to the appropriate Level Director. If the problem is not resolved by the Level Director, it can be appealed in writing to the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee will schedule a meeting within five school days of receiving the written appeal. Those present at the meeting shall include the individual(s) making the appeal, the individual(s) who made the decision to modify or remove materials and the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee shall make a decision within five school days of the meeting. The superintendent's or that of the designee shall be final and binding on all parties.

Adopted November 2, 1988

Revised June 1, 1994

Revised November 4, 2020