

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Students shall enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression. They shall have the right to express their views in speech, writing, or through any other medium or form, electronic or written, limited solely by those restrictions imposed on all citizens generally and those specifically applicable to children and youth in a school setting.

The Board of Education encourages student publications not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views and a means of communicating within and without the school community.

All student publications will comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided.

Student newspapers, publications, other mediums (electronic or written) should be free of advertisements for alcohol, tobacco, illicit or illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia.

Students participating on school publications and in extra-curricular clubs shall have the right to attend any full membership meeting, committee meeting, or sponsored activity of each class and all duly authorized co-curricular and interscholastic groups specified in Board policies for the purpose of reporting on student activities provided that they:

1. present official credentials to the advisor and/or student in charge prior to admission;
2. pay any appropriate admission charge for an activity;
3. cover activities without specific conflicts of interest with that club or activity; and
4. leave upon a majority vote of the elected officers to go into Executive Session if specified in the bylaws of the class or organization.

Student newspapers, publications, other mediums (electronic or written) which are paid for by the District and/or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum are not considered a public forum. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech which it feels is inconsistent with the District's basic educational mission.

Adopted: October 18, 1994

Reviewed: December 6, 2011