

## **4.14—STUDENT MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE**

### **Student Media**

All student media that are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, or are produced in conjunction with a class shall be considered school-sponsored Media. School sponsored media are an extension of classroom activities and as such do not provide a forum for public expression. Student media as well as the content of student expression in school-sponsored activities, shall be subject to the editorial review of the District's administration whose actions shall be reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns and adhere to the following limitations:

1. Advertising may be accepted for media that does not condone or promote products that are inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience or that endorse such things as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
2. Media may be regulated to prohibit writings determined by the appropriate teacher, student media advisor, and/or administrator, to be ungrammatical; poorly written; inadequately researched; biased or prejudiced; vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.
3. Media may be regulated to prohibit the dissemination of material that may reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use; irresponsible sex; conduct that is otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order; or to associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.
4. Prohibited media includes, but are not limited to:
  - a. Are obscene as to minors;
  - b. Are libelous or slanderous, including material containing defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials, and made with knowledge of their falsity or a reckless disregard of the truth;
  - c. Constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy as defined by state law,
  - d. Suggest or urge the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises;
  - e. Suggest or urge the violation of lawful school regulations;
  - f. Attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups; or
  - g. Political advertising. (Refer to policy 6.71)
  - h. Harass, threaten, or intimidate a student.

### **Student Media on School Web Pages**

Student media displayed on school web pages shall follow the same guidelines as listed above and shall also:

1. Not contain any non-educational advertisements;
2. Not contain any personally identifying information, as defined by "Directory Information" in Policy 4.13 Privacy of Student Records, without the written permission of the parent of the student or the student if over eighteen (18);
3. State that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the School Board or the employees of the district.

## **Student Distribution of Nonschool Literature, Publications, and Materials**

The School principal or designee shall review nonschool publications prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that disruption will likely result from the distribution. The school principal or designee shall establish reasonable regulations governing the time, place, and manner of student distribution of nonschool materials.

The regulations shall include the following:

1. Students shall have the right to distribute and possess literature including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, leaflets and pamphlets. The building principal may prohibit a specific issue of a specific publication or other publication if there is substantial, factual basis to believe its possession or distribution will cause, or is causing, substantial disruption of school activities.
2. All petitions shall be free of obscenities, libelous statements and personal attack and shall be within the bounds of reasonable conduct. Students signing such petitions shall be free from recrimination or retribution from members of the staff and administration.
3. All materials that will be considered for distribution must be given to the building principal. The principal will have up to ten school days to accept or deny the request.
4. The principal shall authorize the time and location for distribution of approved literature.

Cross Reference – Policy 6.71

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-1202, 1203, & 1204

*Tinker v. Des Moines ISD*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

*Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser*, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)

*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

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