



## **IHAAA - SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

The purpose of school-sponsored student publications shall be to provide students with guided instructional experiences in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding English and responsible journalism. School newspapers have the additional purpose of disseminating school-related information among the members of the school community.

The Board encourages students to freely and creatively express their views in school-sponsored publications subject to the limitations of this policy, which shall serve as a publications code, and governing law. To protect the rights of all members of the school community and to promote the educational purposes of the schools, students shall be prohibited from publishing:

1. Expression which is obscene.
2. Expression which is libelous, slanderous, or defamatory under state law.
3. Expression which is false as to any person.
4. Expression which creates a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, the violation of lawful school regulations, the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation and discipline of the school and school activities.
5. Expression which violates the rights of others to privacy.
6. Expressions which are in violation of lawful school regulations designed to maintain an educational environment conducive to learning and/or prevent disruption of school operations.

The publications instructor shall direct and control the learning experience that the publication is intended to provide, and shall teach and encourage responsible expression and professional standards of English and journalism. The publications instructor may directly assign work to students or, in the alternative, may make student editors responsible for determining the news, opinion, and advertising content of the publication subject to review and approval by the publications instructor, the provisions of this policy and governing law.

The publications instructor shall provide direction and supervision to students in developing editorial policy guidelines which address the publication's philosophy and operating procedures including, but not limited to, sensitive issues such as profanity, advertising, confidentiality, invasion of privacy, deaths within the school community, and

letters to the editor. The editorial policy shall be reviewed and revised yearly by the publications instructor.

All school-sponsored publications shall contain a disclaimer that expression made by students in the exercise of freedom of speech or freedom of the press, as may be allowed under this policy, is not an expression of the District or of District policy, and that the District and its employees are immune from civil or criminal action based on any expression made or published by students in such cases.

#### TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

The principal shall coordinate with the publications instructor regarding 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 that might be caused by the distribution of school-sponsored publications.

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The Board of Education may review a decision by the superintendent or