

Students – Welfare

Freedom of Speech/Expression

A. School-Sponsored Publications

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in official school publications, except for expression that is obscene, libelous, slanderous, or so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. (Education Code 48907)

Official school publications include material produced by students in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either for a fee or free. (Education Code 48907)

Each principal shall develop a school publications code outlining the responsibility of student journalists, editors, and publication advisors.

All student submissions shall be held to professional standards of English and journalism. (Education Code 48907)

If the principal considers material submitted for publication to violate Education Code 48907, he/she shall notify the student, without undue delay, and give specific reasons why the submitted material may not be published. Absent extraordinary circumstances, such notice should be given in sufficient time to allow the student time to either modify the material or to seek review of the principal's determination from the Superintendent or designee. Prior to any restriction of student speech, school officials shall consider any feasible alternative options to restricting the speech.

To the extent that the principal or designee believes that the school and district should be disassociated from a particular idea or opinion, the principal may require student articles to include disclaimers.

B. Distribution of Printed Materials and Petitions by Students

1. All written material intended to be distributed or posted must be submitted to the appropriate school administrator at least three schooldays before distribution.
2. All written material being distributed must have the name and the address or contact location of the sponsoring organization or individual.

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3. Only students of the school may pass out the written material. Distribution can only occur before school, during lunch, and after school is dismissed. Distribution cannot occur during class time. Printed materials or petitions may be distributed only in locations that do not obstruct the normal flow of traffic within the school or at entrances.
4. No student shall use coercion to induce any other student or person to accept printed matter or to sign a petition. No funds shall be collected for any material distributed.
5. No written materials distributed or circulated pursuant to this policy shall be left unattended or stacked for pickup while unattended at any place in the school or school grounds or property in the immediate vicinity of the school.
6. The principal or designee may provide bulletin boards on which students and student organizations may post materials of general interest but all posted material must meet abovementioned requirements.
7. Any written material distributed in violation of these place, time, and manner restrictions is prohibited.

C. Clothing, Buttons, and Badges

Buttons, badges, armbands, and clothing bearing slogans or sayings may be worn unless their message falls into the categories prohibited by law and Board policy. No employee shall interfere with this practice on the grounds that the message may be controversial or unpopular with students or faculty.

Rules Approved: 03/21/1972
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