

## SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

~~The Board may sponsor student publications and productions as a means by which students learn, under adult direction, the rights and responsibilities of public expression in a free society.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, "school-sponsored student media" shall include both student publications and productions. "Student publications" shall include any written materials, (including, but not limited to, banners, flyers, posters, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, playbills, yearbooks, literary journals, books, and t-shirts and other school-sponsored clothing), as well as material in electronic or on-line form (including, but not limited to, websites, web logs ("blogs"), video or audio clips, and newsletters or announcements transmitted by e-mail, wireless broadcast or other similar distribution/dissemination).~~

~~Such publications and productions also play a vital role in the school program by:~~

- ~~A. — interpreting students and the school to the community;~~
- ~~B. — serving as a public relations media;~~
- ~~C. — developing skills in communicating via the mass media;~~
- ~~D. — developing acceptable methods for preserving the constitutional provision of free speech.~~

~~In sponsoring a student publication or production, the Board is mindful of the fact that it could be available to any student attending this school, and must, therefore, generally be suitable for all students.~~

~~Issues on which opposing points of view have been disseminated by responsible opinion may be introduced in a school-sponsored publication provided equal opportunity is given to present each view and provided further that the material generally is acceptable to this community.~~

The School Board sponsors student publications and productions as means by which students learn, under adult direction/supervision, the rights and responsibilities inherent when engaging in the public expression of ideas and information in our democratic society.

For purposes of this policy, "school-sponsored student media" shall include both student publications and productions. "Student publications" shall include any written materials, (including, but not limited to, banners, flyers, posters, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, playbills, yearbooks, literary journals, books, and t-shirts and

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other school-sponsored clothing), as well as material in electronic or on-line form (including, but not limited to, websites, web logs ("blogs"), video or audio clips, and newsletters or announcements transmitted by e-mail, wireless broadcast or other similar distribution/dissemination). "Student productions" shall include vocal and theatrical performances, impromptu dramatic presentations, or any electronic media (including, but not limited to, radio and television programs, podcasts, and other video or audio productions that are recorded for re-broadcast or broadcast in real time using any available broadcast technology). Further, the term "publication" shall include distribution and dissemination of a student publication; and the term "performance" shall include presentation and broadcast of a student production.

The following speech is unprotected and prohibited in all school-sponsored student publications and productions: speech that is defamatory, libelous, obscene or harmful to juveniles; speech that is reasonably likely to cause substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities or the educational process; speech that infringes upon the privacy or rights of others; speech that violates copyright law; speech that promotes activities, products or services that are unlawful (illegal) as to minors as defined by State or Federal law; and speech that otherwise violates school policy and/or State or Federal law. The Board authorized the administration to engage in prior review and restraint of school-sponsored publications and productions to prevent the publication or performance of unprotected speech.

~~Advertising is permitted in school newspapers, yearbooks, programs, etc., which are published by student organizations. Permission should be given by the principal.~~

All school-sponsored student publications and productions are nonpublic forums. While students may address matters of interest or concern to their readers/viewers, as nonpublic forums, the style and content of the student publications and productions can be regulated for legitimate pedagogical, school-related reasons. School officials shall routinely and systematically review and, if necessary, restrict the style and/or content of all school-sponsored student publications and productions prior to publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker. Legitimate pedagogical concerns are not confined to academic issues, but include the teaching by example of the shared values of a civilized social order, which consists of not only independence of thought and frankness of expression but also discipline, courtesy/civility, and respect for authority. School officials may further prohibit speech that is ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudice, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.

School-sponsored student media may not be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. publication/performance is limited to students, staff and parents/family members) except with prior written approval of the building principal.

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit the publications, ~~or~~ productions, or advertisements which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such unprotected and prohibited materials are those which:

- A. are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, religious, racial, or other delineated group;
- B. libel any specific person or persons;
- C. seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other religious denomination, sect, or point of view;
- D. advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to:
  - 1. constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students;
  - 2. contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students who may receive them;
  - 3. incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations.

The Board also prohibits publications, ~~and~~ productions, and advertisements which:

- A. fail to identify the student or organization responsible for distribution;
- B. solicit funds for nonschool organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board;
- C. promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election.

The decision as whether or not something is published or produced shall be made by the advisor with appeal to the principal.

F.S. 847.07, 1001.43  
Florida Const. Art. I, Section 4

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