

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Board recognizes the educational value of student publications in the instructional program. Student publications may include yearbooks, newspapers, literary and artistic collections and other expressions that are prepared in class or as part of co-curricular or extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to develop skills of written and verbal communication and to exercise the right to express their opinions freely and responsibly.

Student Publications

Student publications are not intended to be a public forum for student use. The Board reserves the right to exercise control over student publications through administrative staff and faculty. Student expression may be restricted if it is determined that such expression is inconsistent with the basic educational mission of the schools and when censorship action is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns.

Materials included in student publications may not:

- A. Be libelous, obscene or profane;
- B. Be likely to cause a substantial disruption of normal school activity;
- C. Invade the privacy of others;
- D. Demean any race, religion, sex, nationality or ethnic group;
- E. Advocate the violation of the law, Board policy, or school rules; and
- F. Advertise or advocate for the use of tobacco products, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.

Faculty advisors will be appointed to guide students engaged in co-curricular or extra-curricular activities that will culminate in publications or other student expressions. Student editors will have initial responsibility for determining content, but the advisor may override the student editor's decision based on the criteria in this policy.

Students who believe that their material may have been improperly or unfairly censored may appeal to the building principal. If dissatisfied with the principal's decision, appeal

may be made to the Superintendent. The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for developing procedures for appeal.

Students who are dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may appeal to the School Board.

Distribution of Materials

Students who wish to distribute materials that are not related to instructional, co-curricular or extracurricular activities must have the prior approval of the building principal. The criteria shall be the same as those for student publications. The time and place of distribution of approved materials may be limited to prevent interference with the instructional program. The principal's decision shall be final. Students violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Adopted: 7-25-00

Revised: _____