

STUDENTS

Freedom of Expression

Students shall enjoy the privilege of free verbal and written expression providing such expression does not disrupt the operation of the school. The school principal shall have the authority to monitor student verbal and written expression. Students who violate the standards for verbal and written expression shall be subject to corrective action or punishment.

For purposes of verbal and written expression, the following guidelines should be in effect:

1. Distribution will be restricted where there is evidence which reasonably supports a forecast that disruption will likely result directly from the distribution. In order for a student publication to be disruptive, there must exist specific facts upon which it would be reasonable to forecast that a clear and present likelihood of an immediate, substantial material disruption to normal school activity would occur if the material were published and distributed. Disruption includes, but is not necessarily limited to, student rioting; destruction of property; widespread shouting or boisterous conduct; or substantial student participation in a school boycott, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out or other related form of activity.
2. Material which is construed to be obscene shall not be distributed. Rules for determining obscenity should be consistent with those as applied to instructional materials. Obscene material is what the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests, that the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law, the work, taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic political or scientific value.
3. Libelous material shall be prohibited. Libelous material shall be defined to include defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials. In order to be libelous, the defamatory falsehood must be made with actual malice; that is, with knowledge that it is false, or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.
4. Material shall be considered profane when the language does not meet the standards of professional journalism as evidenced by the daily newspapers commonly distributed in the school district.
5. Publications shall not "invade the privacy" of individuals. Such occurrences may include exploitation of one's personality, publications of one's private affairs with which the public has no legitimate concern or wrongful intrusion into one's private activities in a manner that can cause mental suffering, shame, or humiliation to a person of ordinary sensibilities.

Administrative Regulation No. 3220
Freedom of Expression - Continued

6. Publications which criticize school officials or advocate violation of school rules shall be prohibited when there is evidence which supports a forecast that substantial disruption of school will develop.
7. Literature which attacks ethnic, religious or racial groups will be banned.