

Student Publications

School-sponsored student publications are an educational activity through which students can gain experience in reporting, writing, editing and understanding responsible journalism. Because the Board recognizes creative student expression as an educational benefit of the school experience, it encourages freedom of speech in student publications consistent with this policy and governing law. Student editors of school-sponsored publications shall be responsible for determining the news, opinion and advertising content of their publications subject to the limitations of this policy and governing law.

Articles published in school-sponsored student publications shall reflect responsible journalism and high standards of English usage. Expression in school-sponsored student publications which is false, obscene or defamatory; or which presents a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, the violation of school rules or material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, or which violates the privacy rights of others, is expressly prohibited.

The publication advisor within each school shall be responsible for supervising the production of school-sponsored publications and for teaching and encouraging free and responsible expression, professional standards of journalism and high standards of English usage. The publications advisor has authority to establish and limit writing assignments for students working with publications and to otherwise direct and control the learning experience that publications are intended to provide when participation in a school-sponsored publication is part of a school class or activity for which grades or school credits are given.

No expression made by any student in a school-sponsored student publication in the exercise of freedom of speech shall be deemed to be an expression of the school, the district, or any district employee or Board member, and all school-sponsored publications shall contain a disclaimer to that effect.

The principal of each school, subject to the superintendent's approval, may establish rules for the review and approval of articles to be included in school-sponsored student publications, procedures for resolving disputes concerning the content of school-sponsored student publications, and rules establishing reasonable time, place and manner requirements for distribution of school-sponsored student publications within the jurisdiction of the district.

Adopted: January 21, 1992
Revised: May 2000

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-1-120

CROSS REF.: JICEC, Student Distribution of Non-Curricular Materials