



6605.1: JOURNALISM

I. Prohibited Expressions.

Prior to publication of the student newspaper, annuals, and magazines, the classroom instructor and school principal or designee shall review classroom materials to determine their acceptability for publication. Student publications may be restricted, edited, or prohibited when, after considering the maturity level of the students, the classroom instructor, principal (or designee) determines any of the following:

A. The expression is considered vulgar or obscene. Vulgar or obscene expressions are those which the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that when taken as a whole, appeal to prurient interests; or, the expressions depict or describe in a patently offensive way sexual conduct in a manner prohibited by applicable law; or, the obscene materials, taken as a whole, lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

B. The expression is considered defamatory. Expressions shall be considered defamatory when they include libelous falsehoods about individuals. In order to be libelous, the libelous falsehood must be made with actual malice; that is, with the knowledge that it is false or with reckless disregard of whether or not it is false.

C. The expression invades the privacy of others. Invasion of privacy includes exploitation of an individual's personality; providing information of an individual's private affairs with which the public has no legitimate concern; or wrongful intrusion into an individual's private activities in a manner that can cause mental suffering, shame, or humiliation to a person of ordinary sensibilities.

D. The expression criticizes school officials or advocates violation of District Policies or Rules. Such expressions are prohibited to the extent that there is evidence that supports a reasonable judgment that substantial disruption of or material interference with the normal operation of the school or school activities will result, as provided in Section I (F) below.

E. The expression is discriminatory. Expressions which attack or promote discrimination against groups or individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability, or age.

F. The expression substantially interrupts or materially interferes with the educational process. Such expressions are prohibited when there is information which causes school administrators to reasonably forecast that a substantial disruption of or material interference with the normal operation of the school or school activities may occur, or injury to persons, damage to property, or interference with the rights of others may result if permitted.

G. The expression is highly controversial. The publication is highly controversial and advances or advocates a certain viewpoint or lifestyle which has an inflammatory effect. An indication of whether something is controversial is whether the topic would reasonably offend some groups or would be shocking to teachers, parents, and/or students. To be prohibited under this subsection, the expression must substantially interrupt or materially interfere with the educational process.

Date of Adoption

July 5, 1988

Date of Revision

April 21, 1997

July 26, 1999

April 24, 2000

January 7, 2013

November 16, 2020

Reaffirmed

September 5, 2006

Related Policies and Rules

[5010.1: Non-Discrimination and Harassment](#)

[5010.3 Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure](#)

[5400.1: Student Discipline](#)

[5400.6: Standards for Student Conduct](#)

[5510.1: Freedom of Expression](#)

[5510.2: Bulletin Boards, Printed Materials and Petitions](#)

[5750.1: Student Memorials](#)

[6605: Journalism](#)