

Related Entries: (Not identified at this time)

School-Sponsored Publications and Productions

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, t-shirts, and other school-sponsored clothing), as well as materials 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.

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

44 publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the
45 speaker. Legitimate pedagogical concerns are not confined to academic issues.

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47 School-sponsored student media may not be published/performed outside the school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

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51 Students shall not be disciplined and/or retaliated against for exercising and/or asserting
52 their free speech rights as defined in this policy. Nothing in this policy, however, restricts
53 the Board's ability to impose post-publication/performance discipline related to a student
54 engaging in the impermissible publication/performance of unprotected speech.

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56 Advertising is permitted in all school-sponsored student publications/productions.

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58 Advertisements submitted for publication or inclusion in a production shall be reviewed
59 by the class/activity advisor and/or the Principal for a determination that they are
60 appropriate for juveniles and meet the requirements of Board Policy 2.24. The
61 Superintendent retains the final authority to determine whether an advertisement is
62 appropriate and will be included in a publication/production. Advertisements may be
63 rejected for legitimate pedagogical school-related reasons unrelated to the viewpoint of
64 the advertiser (e.g., the advertisement encourages action that would endanger the
65 health and safety of students).

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67 **General Prohibitions**

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69 Regardless of their status as non-public or limited-purpose public *forums*, the Board
70 prohibits publications, productions, and advertisements that promote, favor or oppose
71 any candidate for election or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question
72 submitted at any election.

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74 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Hazelwood School Dist. v. Kuhlmeier
75 Supreme Court of the United States

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77 Adopted: 8/30/2022

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79 © Neola 2002

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81 Office of Legal Services 2022