

## **DISTRICT SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

Students shall enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression. They shall have the right to express their views limited solely by those restrictions imposed on all citizens generally and those specifically designed to protect children and youth in a school setting. The Board of Education is ultimately responsible for the content of District sponsored student publications.

The Board of Education authorizes student publications because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism. Student publications are intended to provide an opportunity for student expression, but they are not public forums.

Student publications shall comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, pornography, threats of violence, lies, ridicule of private individuals or groups (e.g., expressions based on ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, personal appearance, or disability), articles advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice, or the breaking of laws and school regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted.

Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those published must be provided.

Student publications, moreover, should be free of advertisements for alcohol, tobacco, illicit or illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any other substance or activity proscribed by law for minors.

Each school shall develop a publication manual, consistent with this policy, for each student publication. All such publication manuals shall be available for public review.