

SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

The Board of School Trustees 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, and t-shirts and other school-sponsored clothing), as well as material 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.

[NOTE: PLEASE CHOOSE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING 4 OPTIONS.]

- [X] Option #1 [Select, if the Board intends all school-sponsored student media (i.e., publications/productions) to be nonpublic forums – i.e. subject to routine prior review/restraint. This is the most restrictive option.]**

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 publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker. Legitimate pedagogical concerns are not confined to academic issues, but include the teaching by example of the shared values of a civilized social order, which consists of not only independence of thought and frankness of expression but also discipline, courtesy/civility, and respect for authority. School officials may further prohibit speech that is grammatically incorrect, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.

- [X] School-sponsored student media may not be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. publication/performance is limited to students, staff and parents/family members) **(X)** except with prior ~~written~~ approval of the **(X)** building administration ~~principal~~ **(-)** Superintendent.

- [] ~~While school-sponsored student media generally may be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. to the general public), the following student media may only be published/performed to students, staff and parents/family members: _____ [identify].~~
~~**(-)** See Board Policy 9160.~~

- ~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of student media outside the school community (i.e. to the general public). See Board Policy 9160.~~

- [] ~~The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of only the following student media outside the immediate school community (i.e. to the general public): _____ [identify] **(-)** high school newspaper **[could substitute with the name of the publication]** **(-)** high school yearbook **[could substitute with the name of the yearbook].**~~
~~**(-)** See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] Option #2 [Select if the Board intends to identify specific student publications/productions to be limited-purpose public forums, but wants to retain the right to engage in limited prior review/restraint on the basis of the four (4) identified reasons. Publications/productions not listed are considered nonpublic forums and will be subject to routine prior review and restraint. This is second most restrictive option and permits some prior review/restraint involving what are otherwise limited-purpose public forums.]~~

~~The Board designates the following official, school sponsored student media to be limited-purpose public forums:~~

~~[List all publications so designated:]~~

~~As limited-purpose public forums the student journalists or performers associated with the publications and/or productions listed above may address matters of concern and/or interest to their readers/viewers. These limited-purpose public forums are not open to the public at large and are not intended to address general matters of public concern. As limited-purpose public forums, school officials will not routinely and systematically restrict content of the publications and/or productions listed above prior to their publication/performance; however, school officials may review the content and reject an article/publication/production due to one of the following four (4) reasons:~~

- ~~A. where poor grammar or writing is evident;~~
- ~~B. where a legitimate question of age appropriateness of the material exists;~~
- ~~C. where matters beyond the limited scope of the forum are included; and/or~~
- ~~D. where the content involves unprotected speech.~~

~~These publications and or productions shall contain a notice to the reader/viewer that the material, while school sponsored, is student directed and subject only to limited prior review. Given these student publications and/or productions have been designated as limited purpose public forums, the school assumes no liability for their content beyond that covered by the school officials' limited prior review. With editorial control comes responsibility. Student journalists and performers are expected to establish and enforce standards for their publications/productions that are consistent with professional journalism/theatrical/broadcast standards.~~

~~[] School sponsored student media may not be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. publication/performance is limited to students, staff and parents/family members) () except with the prior written approval of the () building principal () Superintendent.~~

~~[] While school sponsored student media generally may be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. to the general public, the following student media may only be published/performed to students, staff and parents/family members: _____ **[identify]**. () See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of student media outside the school community (i.e. to the general public): See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of only the following student media outside the immediate school community (i.e. to the general public): _____ **[identify]** () high school newspaper [could substitute with the name of the publication] () high school yearbook **[could substitute with the name of the yearbook.]** () See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~All other school sponsored student publications and productions, including classroom and/or other curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular/club related publications and/or productions, are nonpublic forums. As nonpublic forums, the content of these other 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 content of all school sponsored student media except those publications/productions listed above, prior to publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker.~~

~~[] Option #3 [Select if the Board intends to identify specific student publications/productions to be limited purpose public forums (i.e., not subject to prior review/restraint), which may be published/performed outside the school community. Publications/productions not listed are considered nonpublic forums and will be subject to routine prior review and restraint. This is the second most permissive option and only permits prior review/restraint of nonpublic forums, and generally allows limited-purpose public forums to be generally published/performed outside the school community.]~~

~~The Board designates the following official, school-sponsored student media to be limited purpose public forums:~~

~~**[List all publications/productions so designated:]**~~

~~As limited purpose public forums the student journalists or performers associated with the publications and/or productions listed above may address matters of concern and/or interest to their readers/viewers. The student journalists and/or performers involved in the above-listed publications/productions have the right to determine the content of these student media. () The content is open to the public at large at the discretion of the student journalist/performers and may address general matters of public concern. School officials will not routinely and systematically restrict content of the publications and/or productions listed above prior to their publication/performance, except with respect to unprotected speech. () Each medium should provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question and exchange ideas. () Content should reflect all areas of student interest, and may include topics about which there may be dissent and/or controversy.~~

~~These publications and/or productions shall contain a notice to the reader/viewer that the material, while school sponsored, is student directed and not subject to prior review. Given these student publications and/or productions have been designated as limited purpose public forums, the school assumes no liability for their content. With editorial control comes responsibility. Student journalists and performers are expected to establish and enforce standards for their publications/productions that are consistent with professional journalism/theatrical/broadcast standards.~~

~~All other school sponsored student publications and productions, including classroom and/or other curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular/club related publications and/or productions, are nonpublic forums. As nonpublic forums, the content of these other 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 content of all schools sponsored student media except for those publications/productions listed above, prior to publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker.~~

~~[] Nonpublic forum school sponsored student media may not be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. publication/performance is limited to students, staff and parents/family members) () except with the prior written approval of the () building principal () Superintendent.~~

~~[] While nonpublic forum school sponsored student media generally may be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. to the general public), the following nonpublic forum student media may only be published/performed to students, staff and parents/family members:
_____ **[identify]**. () See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of nonpublic forum student media outside the school community (i.e. to the general public). See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of only the following nonpublic forum student media outside the immediate school community (i.e. to the general public): _____ **[identify]**
() high school newspaper **[could substitute with the name of the publication]** () high school yearbook **[could substitute with the name of the yearbook]**. () See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] Option #4 [Select if the Board intends to designate all student media, except those related to classes that are not directly associated with student publications/productions, to be limited purpose public forums (i.e., not subject to prior review/restraint). This is the most permissive/liberal of the options.]~~

~~The Board hereby designates all school sponsored student media, with the exception of those originating from classrooms not otherwise directly associated with student publications and productions, as limited purpose public forums whereby students can address matters of concern and/or interest to their readers/viewers. The student journalists and/or performers involved in these publications/productions have the right to determine the content of the student media. () The content is open to the public at large at the discretion of the student journalists/performers and may address general matters of public concern. School officials will not review or restrict the content of non classroom school sponsored student publications or productions prior to publication/performance, except with respect to unprotected speech. () Each medium should provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question and exchange ideas. () Content should reflect all areas of student interest, and may include topics about which there may be dissent and/or controversy.~~

~~These publications and/or productions shall contain a notice to the reader/viewer that the material, while school-sponsored, is student directed and not subject to prior review. Given these student publications and/or productions have been designated as limited purpose public forums, the school assumes no liability for their content. With editorial control comes responsibility. Student journalists and performers are expected to establish and enforce standards for their publications/productions that are consistent with professional journalism/theatrical/broadcast standards.~~

~~Publications and/or productions that are related to classrooms not otherwise directly associated with student publications and productions are nonpublic forums. As nonpublic forums, the content of these 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 content of these school sponsored student publications and productions prior to publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker.~~

~~[] Nonpublic forum school sponsored student media may not be published/performed outside the school community (i.e., publication/performance is limited to students, staff and parents/family members) () except with the prior written approval of the () building principal () Superintendent.~~

~~[] While nonpublic forum school sponsored student media generally may be published/performed outside the school community (i.e. to the general public), the following nonpublic forum student media may only be published/performed to students, staff and parents/family members: _____ [identify]. () See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of nonpublic forum student media outside the school community (i.e. to the general public). See Board Policy 9160.~~

~~[] The Board expressly authorizes the publication/performance of only the following nonpublic forum student media outside the immediate school community (i.e. to the general public): _____ [identify] () See Board Policy 9160.~~

[END OF OPTIONS #1 THROUGH #4]

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

[NOTE: CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OPTIONS RE: ADVERTISING.]

[X] **Option #1 [Select if the Board intends to permit advertising in some or all student publications/productions, but wants a school employee/official to be responsible for approving the appropriate advertisements.]**

Appropriate advertising is permitted in **(X)** all school-sponsored student publications/productions ~~() the following school sponsored student publications/productions:~~ **[identify publications/productions]**

Appropriate advertisements submitted for publication or inclusion in a production shall be reviewed by **(X)** the class/activity advisor **(X)** the building principal ~~()~~ the Superintendent ~~()~~ school officials for a determination that they are appropriate for juveniles. The **(X)** Superintendent ~~()~~ Board retains the final authority to determine whether an advertisement is appropriate and will be included in a publication/production. Advertisements may be rejected for legitimate pedagogical school-related reasons unrelated to the viewpoint of the advertiser (e.g., the advertisement encourages action that would endanger the health and safety of students).

[] **Option 2 [Select if the Board intends to permit advertising in some or all student publications/productions that are designated to be limited-purpose public forums, and the students involved in the specific publications/productions will be responsible for accepting or rejecting the advertisements.]**

Advertising is permitted in

~~() all school-sponsored student media that have been designated as limited-purpose public forums.~~

~~() the following school-sponsored student media that have been designated as limited-purpose public forums: **[identify publications/productions]**.~~

~~The students in the class(es)/activity(ies) associated with~~

~~() all school-sponsored student media that have been designated as limited-purpose public forums~~

~~() the above-listed student media~~

~~will determine whether to include advertisements in the publications/productions. Acceptance or rejection of specific advertisements is within the control of the publication/production staff, which may accept any ads except those for activities, products or services that are illegal for students and/or that violate State or Federal law.~~

~~[] The publication/production staff is encouraged to consider the age appropriateness of the ads they select.~~

~~[] **Option 3 [Select if the Board intends to prohibit advertisements in all student publications/productions.]**~~

~~Advertising is not permitted in school sponsored student publications/productions.~~

~~**[END OF OPTIONS RE: ADVERTISING]**~~

General Prohibitions

Regardless of their status as non-public or limited-purpose public *forums*, the Board prohibits publications, productions and advertisements that:

- A. promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election;
- (X) fail to identify the student or organization responsible for the publication/performance;
- (X) solicit funds for nonschool organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the ~~Superintendent~~ Board.