



IHAAA - SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The purpose of school-sponsored student publications shall be to provide students with guided instructional experiences in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding English and responsible journalism. School newspapers have the additional purpose of disseminating school-related information among the members of the school community.

The Board encourages students to freely and creatively express their views in school-sponsored publications subject to the limitations of this policy, which shall serve as a publications code, and governing law. To protect the rights of all members of the school community and to promote the educational purposes of the schools, students shall be prohibited from publishing:

1. Expression which is obscene.
2. Expression which is libelous, slanderous, or defamatory under state law.
3. Expression which is false as to any person.
4. Expression which creates a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, the violation of lawful school regulations, the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation and discipline of the school and school activities.
5. Expression which violates the rights of others to privacy.
6. Expressions which are in violation of lawful school regulations designed to maintain an educational environment conducive to learning and/or prevent disruption of school operations.

The publications instructor shall direct and control the learning experience that the publication is intended to provide, and shall teach and encourage responsible expression and professional standards of English and journalism. The publications instructor may directly assign work to students or, in the alternative, may make student editors responsible for determining the news, opinion, and advertising content of the publication subject to review and approval by the publications instructor, the provisions of this policy and governing law.

The publications instructor shall provide direction and supervision to students in developing editorial policy guidelines which address the publication's philosophy and operating procedures including, but not limited to, sensitive issues such as profanity, advertising, confidentiality, invasion of privacy, deaths within the school community, and

letters to the editor. The editorial policy shall be reviewed and revised yearly by the publications instructor.

All school-sponsored publications shall contain a disclaimer that expression made by students in the exercise of freedom of speech or freedom of the press, as may be allowed under this policy, is not an expression of the District or of District policy, and that the District and its employees are immune from civil or criminal action based on any expression made or published by students in such cases.

TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

The principal shall coordinate with the publications instructor regarding the time, place and manner of distributing school-sponsored publications to reduce any conflict with school instructional time and/or reduce any disruption of the orderly operation of the school that might be caused by the distribution of school-sponsored publications.

REVIEW PROCEDURES

Any member of the administration, faculty, or staff of a school in Poudre School District R-1 who has knowledge or reasonable suspicion of the publication, intended publication, distribution, or intended distribution of any school-sponsored publication which contains prohibited expression as listed above shall notify the publications instructor as soon as possible of such fact, together with all supporting information known to the notifying person. In the event the publications instructor is unable or unwilling to address the matter to the satisfaction of the notifying person, that person may present his or her concerns to the principal or principal's designee.

Whenever a matter comes before the principal or principal's designee for resolution, an informal hearing shall be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible. At the hearing, the students involved, the publications instructor, and such other persons as the principal or designee deems appropriate may be present.

All parties involved shall have the opportunity to present their views. However, they shall not have the right to representation by legal counsel or to call or cross-examine witnesses.

Thereafter, the principal or principal's designee shall notify all parties in writing of his or her decision. If the decision is that all or any part of the expression is prohibited under the terms of this policy, the decision shall specify the rule or standard which has been violated.

If the decision of the principal or principal's designee is not acceptable to any of the parties involved, they may appeal the decision to the superintendent or superintendent's designee by written request, which must be received by the superintendent or designee by the close of the business day following the date of the principal's/designee's decision.

The Board of Education may review a decision by the superintendent or superintendent's designee if it deems such review necessary or desirable, and if a written request setting forth the appealing party's position is received by the secretary of the Board within two school days of the date of the superintendent's/designee's decision.

Adopted: June 1991

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LEGAL REF:

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