

Student Publications

1. Publications Subject to Review, Approval and Prior Constraint

Student publications subject to review, approval and prior constraint by school administrators include those which are:

- a. School-sponsored (supported by district funds, use of district equipment, etc.);
- b. Part of the established curriculum;
- c. Of benefit primarily to those who compile, edit and publish them;
- d. Not by policy or practice open for indiscriminate use by the general public or students individually or as a group; or
- e. Activities which students, parents and members of the public might reasonably perceive to bear the sanction or approval of the district.

2. Prior Restraint

Student publications may be reviewed by staff advisors and may be reviewed by school or district administrators prior to printing and distribution. Publications cannot cause substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities, programs, services, routines or schedules or intrude into school affairs, the lives of others or contain libelous or obscene content. Materials may be modified or removed from publications for legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include:

- a. The material is or may be defamatory, libelous or obscene;
- b. The material is inappropriate based on the age, grade level and/or maturity of the reading audience;
- c. The material is poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced;
- d. Whether there is an opportunity for a named individual or named individuals to make a response;
- e. Whether specific individuals may be identified even though the material does not use or give names; or
- f. The material is or may be otherwise generally disruptive to the school environment. Such disruption may occur, for example, if the material uses, advocates or condones the use of profane language or advocates or condones the commission of unlawful acts.

3. Appeal Process

Modifications or removal of items because of prior restraint may be appealed in writing to the superintendent. The superintendent shall schedule a meeting within five school days of receiving the written appeal. Those present at the meeting shall include the individuals making the appeal, the individuals who made the decision to modify or remove materials and the superintendent. At the

superintendent's discretion, the district's legal counsel may also attend the meeting. The superintendent shall make his/her decision within five school days of the meeting. The superintendent's decision shall be final and binding on all parties. Students who become subject to discipline for failure to comply with distribution rules will be granted procedural due process rights.