

Freedom of expression

The free expression of student opinion is an important part of education in a democratic society. Students' verbal and written expression of opinion on school premises is to be encouraged so long as it does not substantially disrupt the operation of the school. Students are expressly prohibited from the use of vulgar and/or offensive terms in classroom or assembly settings.

The Superintendent shall develop guidelines assuring that students are able to enjoy free expression of opinion while maintaining orderly conduct of the school.

A. Student Publications

Student publications produced as part of the school's curriculum or with the support of the associated student body fund are intended to serve both as vehicles for instruction and student communication. They are operated and substantively financed by the district. Material appearing in such publications should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent. Controversial issues may be presented provided that they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not:

- Be libelous or slanderous;
- Be an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- Be obscene or profane; such that it would violate federal or state laws, rules or regulations or incites others to violate federal or state laws, rules or regulations, including the standards established by the federal communications act or applicable federal communication commission rules or regulations;
- Incite students so as to create a clear and present danger of the material and substantial disruption of the school;
- Violate district policy or procedure related to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or related to the prohibition on discrimination pursuant to RCW 28A.642.010.;
- Violate federal or state laws, rules, regulations, or incite the violation of such laws; or
- Advertise tobacco products, liquor, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia.

The Superintendent shall develop guidelines, assuring that students are able to exercise freedom of expression so long as it does not present a material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, implementing these standards above and establishing procedures for the prompt review of any materials that appear not to comply with the standards.

B. Distribution of Materials

Students and district staff may distribute student publications or other materials on school premises in accordance with procedures developed by the Superintendent. Such procedures may impose limits on the time, place, and manner of distribution including prior authorization for the posting of such material on school property.

Students responsible for the distribution of material which leads to a substantial disruption of school activity or otherwise interferes with school operations shall be subject to corrective action, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with student discipline policies.

No one who is neither a student nor a district employee may distribute materials on school grounds.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.600 WAC 392-400-215	Student rights
Cross Reference:	Board Policy 2340 3241	Religious-related Activities and Practices Corrective Actions or Punishment
Management Resources:	2021-October Issue 2018 June Policy Alert 2018 May Issue 2015 July Policy News Policy News, August 2001 A few Civil Liberty Reminders	

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