

Book	Policy Manual
Section	POLICIES FOR THE BOARD, AUGUST 2022
Title	Copy of SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS
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5722 - SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

The School Board **may** sponsor s student publications and productions as means by which students learn, under adult direction /supervision, the rights and responsibilities **of public expression in a free society inherent when engaging in the public expression of ideas and information in our democratic society.**

~~For purposes of this policy, "publications" shall include any audio, visual, or written materials such as tapes, banners, films, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, books, or other like materials. "Productions" shall include theatrical performances as well as impromptu dramatic presentations.~~

~~Such publications and productions also play a vital role in the school program by:~~

- ~~A. representing students and the school to the community;~~
- ~~B. serving as public relations media;~~
- ~~C. developing skills in communication via the mass media.~~

~~In sponsoring a student publication or production, the Board is mindful of the fact that it could be available to any student attending this school, and must, therefore, generally be suitable for all students.~~

~~Issues on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion may be introduced in a school-sponsored publication provided equal opportunity is given to present each view and the material presented is related to the curriculum content of a course. Therefore, it is under the control of the Board and provided further that the material generally is acceptable to this community.~~

~~Advertising is permitted in school newspapers, yearbooks, programs, etc. which are published by student organizations. Permission should be given by the principal.~~

~~The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit the publications or productions which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such unprotected materials are those which:~~

- ~~A. are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, religious, racial, or other delineated group;~~
- ~~B. libel any specific person or persons;~~
- ~~C. seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other religious denomination, sect, or point of view;~~
- ~~D. advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to:~~
 - ~~1. constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students;~~
 - ~~2. contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students who may receive them;~~
 - ~~3. incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations.~~

~~The Board also prohibits publications and productions which:~~

- ~~A. fail to identify the student or organization responsible for distribution;~~
- ~~B. solicit funds for nonschool organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board;~~
- ~~C. promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election;~~
- ~~D. uses funds or Corporation equipment on instructional time.~~

~~The decision as whether or not something is published or produced shall be made by the advisor with appeal to the principal and Superintendent.~~

For purposes of this policy, "school sponsored student media" shall include both student publications and productions. School-sponsored student media does not include student expression related to classes that are not directly associated with student publications/productions. The term "publication" shall include distribution, transmission, and dissemination of a student publication, regardless of its medium. "Student publications" shall include any written materials, (including, but not limited to, banners, flyers, posters, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, playbills, yearbooks, literacy journals, books, and t-shirts and other school-sponsored clothing) as well as material in electronic or online

form including but not limited to Apps and Services (as defined in Bylaw 0100), webpages/sites, weblogs ("Blogs"), video or audio clips.

The term "performance" shall include presentation and broadcast of a student production. "Student productions" shall include vocal, musical, and/or theatrical performance, impromptu dramatic presentation, or any electronic media (including but not listed to radio and television programs, videoblogs ("vlogs"), podcast.

For purposes of this policy, "school community" is defined to include students, School Corporation employees (i.e. administrators and professional and classified staff), parent/family members and other individuals who are authorized or otherwise permitted by the Superintendent to view a performance or receive directly from the Corporation a publication and those who have been issued credentials to access the Corporation's secure portal.

The following speech is unprotected and prohibited in all school-sponsored student publications and productions: speech that is defamatory, libelous, obscene or harmful to minors as that term is defined in the Children's Internet Protection Action (CIPA); 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 authorizes the administration to engage in prior review and restraint of school-sponsored publications and productions to prevent the publication or performance of unprotected speech.

Student expression relates to classrooms or educational settings not otherwise directly associated with school-sponsored student publications/productions are nonpublic forums. As nonpublic forums, the content of such student expression can be regulated for legitimate pedagogical school-related reasons. School officials shall routinely and systematically review and, if necessary, restrict the content of these student expressions prior to publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker.

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

A. Newspapers

B. Yearbooks

C. Programs

As limited-purpose public forums, the student journalist, content-creators or performers associated with the above-listed publications and/or productions may address matters of concern and/or interest to their readers/viewers. The student journalists, content-creators and/or performers involved in the above-listed publications/productions have the right to determine the content of this student media.

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/posting/publication/production due to one (1) 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.

The listed publications and or production 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 the listed student publications and/or productions have been designated as limited-purpose public forums, the school assumes no liability for the content beyond that covered by the school officials' limited prior review, and with editorial control comes responsibility. Student journalists, content-creators and performers are expected to establish and enforce standards for their publications/productions that are consistent with professional journalism/artistic/theatrical/broadcast standards.

General Prohibitions

Regardless of their status as non-public or limited-purpose public forums, the Board prohibits publications, productions, and advertisements that promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election.