

Students shall enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression. They shall have the right to express their opinions and ideas, support causes and take stands, publicly or privately, in speech or in writing. Compliance with the following is required:

1. The Board of Education is the only group that may take a stand representing the school as an institution.
2. The right to use school avenues of communication including newspapers, announcements and bulletin boards is limited to student or staff personnel. The restrictions in Section 3 below also apply to bulletin boards.
3. All student publications will comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided.

In addition, student newspapers and/or publications which are paid for by the school district and/or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum are not considered a public forum. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech which it feels is inconsistent with the district's basic educational mission.

Students have the right to distribute leaflets, newspapers, and other literature with the prior consent of the building principal at times and locations which in his/her opinion do not interfere with school operations.

4. Students have the right to take action provided it is not prejudicial to public safety, the lawful rights of other persons, free access to all portions of the building and grounds, or to the normal conduct of the school program.
5. Absence from school or classes to attend special events must be arranged by the usual procedures for excused absences.
6. In the event that actions by pupils or others occur at a school and in the opinion of principal these actions pose a threat to the personal safety of building occupants or risk of serious property damage beyond his/her ability to control, the principal should request immediate police assistance.
7. In each secondary school, an advisory committee will be established whose function will be to consider problems and/or grievances and subsequently to advise the building principal.
8. All requests for guests or guest speakers must be approved by the building principal who may, if he/she deems necessary, consult with the advisory committee.
9. The building principal may or may not take the advice of the advisory committee. Appeals of the building principal's decision to the Superintendent and the Board of Education are the right and responsibility of the individuals involved.