

Students

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 or otherwise violate this policy. Students are expressly prohibited from the use of vulgar or lewd terms in classroom or assembly settings.

The district will regulate online student speech only if the speech bears sufficient nexus to the school, based on (1) the degree and likelihood of harm to the school, (2) whether it was reasonably foreseeable the speech would reach and impact the school, and (3) the relation between the content and context of the speech and the school.

The Superintendent will 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.

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.

Although substantively financed and operated by the district, student editors of school-sponsored media are responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of the media, consistent with chapter 28A.600 RCW and other applicable laws and policies. Material appearing in such publications may reflect various areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent. When engaging with a controversial issue, student publications should strive to provide in-depth treatment and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not:

- Be libelous or slanderous;
- Be an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- Violate or incite students 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 unlawful acts, a violation of district regulations, or a 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; or
- Advertise tobacco products, liquor, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia.

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 or designee. 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 that leads to a substantial disruption of school activity or otherwise interferes with school operations may 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.

Cross References: Policy 2340 Religious Related Activities and Practices
 Policy 3241 Student Discipline

Legal Reference: RCW 28A.600

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