

PUBLICATIONS

The board of education sponsors pupil publications as important elements of the instructional program. Pupils are encouraged to develop skills of written and verbal communication and to exercise the right to express their opinions freely and responsibly.

The rights of free speech, and free expression of pupils in public schools pursuant to the First Amendment, are not automatically coextensive with the rights of adults in other settings and shall be applied in light of the special characteristics of the school environment. The board of education reserves the right to exercise prepublication control over school-sponsored publications through administrative staff and faculty. Pupils shall have the right to appeal the exercise of censorship by school district staff to the board of education.

Pupil expression may be restricted, if it can be determined that such expression is inconsistent with the basic educational mission of the school district and when censorship action is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns.

Pupils who violate this policy by expression, publication or distribution of any materials which are biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, unsuitable for immature audiences, or which do not meet the school district's high standards of learning and propriety consistent with its educational goals and objectives may be subject to appropriate discipline.

This policy shall be implemented in accordance with regulations to be developed by the superintendent. The regulations shall:

- A. The advisors of the publication must proof the document (s) prior to publication;
- B. The documents must also be proofread by the Principal or designee; and
- C. Student work that is deemed inappropriate or that is inconsistent with the mission of the school may be eliminated from the publication. Students whose work is questioned may appeal to the chief school administrator. If there is still a need for an appeal, the student may appeal to the board of education.

Web Sites

School-sponsored web sites are also subject to this policy and to the same regulatory constraints as are print publications.

Date:

First Adoption: June 13, 2001

Review Date: June 1, 2008

Revision and Adoption: June 26, 2008

Legal References:

Other Reasons:

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35 prohibits the publication on district web sites of “personally identifiable information” about students without prior written parental consent. “Personally identifiable information” is defined as student

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names, photos, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and locations and times of class trips.

It is important to inform the district educational community of board expectations for student publications.

The U. S. Supreme Court decision in Hazelwood indicated that boards should use policy to convey the standards expected of school-sponsored publications.

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-35	School Internet web sites; disclosure of certain student information prohibited
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of boards (county vocational schools)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.1 <i>et seq.</i>	Implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

Desilets v. Clearview Regional Board of Education, 137 N.J. 585 (1994)

Possible

Cross References:

1111	District publications
5145	Rights
5145.2	Freedom of speech/expression
5145.5	Photographs of pupils
6142.12R	Technology

Key Words

Publications, Student Publications