

2432 SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Education sponsors pupil publications as important elements of 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.

In sponsoring a school publication, the Board of Education is mindful of the fact that such publication may be available to any pupil attending the school, and must, therefore, be generally suitable for all pupils. Issues on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion may be introduced in a school-sponsored publication provided both sides of the issue are given equal opportunity to present their views. Materials, including but not limited to photographs, which violate or may violate the rights of others may not be published.

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:

1. Identify school district staff responsible for pupil publications;
2. Establish procedures for prepublication review; and
3. Specify procedures for appeal by pupils to the Board of Education with provisions for prompt decisions to be made at each level.

Web Sites

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

N.J.S.A. 2C:34-3
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

Adopted: 26 May 2009

