

## Students

### Students Rights and Responsibilities

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

#### Freedom of Speech

Students may, during the school day, during noninstructional time, voluntarily engage in individually or collectively initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious-based meetings that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, are not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. *Noninstructional time* means time set aside by a school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

Political expression, criticism of or dissatisfaction with the District's educational system and its officials by students are all constitutionally protected communications.

Buttons, armbands, posters, and handouts are permissible, but school authorities may reasonably regulate the time and posting of literature. These activities may be banned entirely if school authorities can reasonably forecast that these activities will cause a substantial and material disruption of the educational process. Unpopularity of the expression of controversy does not constitute disruption.

1. Bulletin Boards – School authorities may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards to school announcement. Ample bulletin board space shall be provided for the use of students and student organizations, including a reasonable area for notice relating to out-of-school activities and matters of general interest to students.
  - a. School authorities shall prohibit material which is obscene according to current legal definitions; which is libelous; or which inflames or incites students so as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on or of physical disruption to the orderly operation of the school.
  - b. Identification shall be required on any posted notice of the student or student group issuing same.
  - c. The school shall require that the notice or other communications be officially dated and approved by the Building Principal or his/her designee before posting and that such material be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.
2. Distribution of Printed material and Circulation of Petitions – Students may distribute free

handbills, leaflets, and other printed material and collect signatures on petitions, subject to the approval of the Building Principal. This does not authorize students to distribute information or participate in fundraising campaigns on school property.

- a. Such activities shall not interfere with the normal school program and processes.
  - b. The Building Principal or designee shall have the responsibility to limit such activities to conform with the policies of the Board.
  - c. The time of such activities shall be limited to periods before school begins, after dismissal, and during lunchtime.
  - d. The place of such activity shall be reasonably restricted to permit the normal flow of traffic within the school and at exterior doors.
  - e. The manner of conducting such activity shall be restricted to prevent undue level of noise, or to prevent the use of coercion in obtaining signatures on petitions.
  - f. The school shall require that all printed matter and petitions distributed or circulated on school property bear the name of the sponsoring organization or individual.
3. Buttons and Badges – Buttons or badges may be excluded by the Building Principal to conform with the policies of the Board of Education.

In imposing limitations on student expression for any reason under any of the foregoing provisions, the school must ensure that its rules are applied on a nondiscriminatory basis and in a manner designed to assure maximum freedom of expression to the student. Any student or student group deprived of freedom of expression under any of these provisions shall have the right to require a hearing by the Building Principal to determine whether such deprivation is justified under these rules. The hearing shall provide for a full and fair opportunity for the student to present evidence and argument.

#### Student Accommodations

Several Board policies that are for the benefit of and of interest to students are identified in this section.

#### Bulletins for Students to Take Home

Bulletins and any other forms of announcements may be distributed only with the approval of the Building Principal.

#### Class Lists

Lists of names of students will not be made available unless authorized by the Building

#### Dress

The school, as a center of learning, shall provide for the development of habits and attitudes conducive to acceptable practices of the school community, including good manners, appropriate wearing apparel, and good grooming.

Individual differences shall be recognized and the major responsibility for the acceptable dress and grooming shall be with the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s).

A student's dress and grooming shall not be disruptive to the educational process, shall not constitute a threat to health, safety, welfare, or property, and shall be in accordance with public decency and civil statutes.

Driving to School

The Superintendent or designee shall develop rules and regulations for those who drive to school and park on school property.

Insurance – Accident

A group plan of student accident insurance may be made available on a voluntary basis to every pupil registered in the day schools of the District. The plan approved by the Board shall be the plan for all schools in the District.

1. The Board of Education may invite proposals annually by a notice in a local publication.
2. All proposals received shall be reviewed by the Administration and the District's independent consulting firm.
3. The Board of Education shall review annually no later than the first Board meeting of April, he proposals and recommendations for a student accident plan and adopt the plan which in their opinion would offer the most advantageous cost benefit package.

Orientation

The Building Principals at the various levels of the school's organizational structure shall coordinate plans to aid students to become acquainted with and to adjust to the next higher level of the District's schools.

Photographers

A school may arrange with an outside photographer for photographing students not more than once a year.

Physical Education Uniforms

Students shall provide physical education wearing apparel. Towel service may be provided at a cost to be established by the Board of Education.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7904; 105 ILCS 20/5.  
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7.20, 7.140, 7.150, 7.160, 7.190

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